

**MINUTES**  
**GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**January 18, 2016**

**Final**

**1. Call to Order by the Chairperson**

The January 18, 2016 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairperson Saunders at 7:05 p.m. in the Rugen Community Room at City Hall.

**2. Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum**

Roll call was taken and Chairperson Saunders noted a quorum was present.

PRESENT: Chairperson Saunders; Commissioners Halliday, Newman and Beck, Dr. Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison, and Roy Fickel, Public Works Superintendent

ABSENT: Commissioners Ganim and Chiappetta

GUESTS: None

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the Minutes was deferred to the March 2016 meeting.

**4. General Communications**

Chairperson Saunders shared information on the *Beyond Monarchs* presentation offered by the Friends of the Green Bay Trail. She will forward an electronic version of the flyer to all NRC members.

**5. Consideration of Cases on the Agenda**

None

**6. Old Business**

Review of recent meetings/events

*Comprehensive Plan:*

Comm. Beck attended the Village's Comprehensive Plan Update meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup> and felt it provided good information. The group reviewed larger parcels in Glenview that may change hands and proposed ideas for what they would want to see them become. Some of the parcels discussed were the old Signode, Pearson and Kraft properties. During the review, many participants commented that the large parcels might be good for senior housing. They referenced the Naperville ordinance (Land Donation Ordinance) which requires the counting of bedrooms. The developer then has to donate land or cash in lieu of land for park and open space. She suggested Glenview take a close look at that ordinance. Another discussion from the meeting was regarding larger parcels and the parking lot next to ABT, and if the Park District had any interest in that parking lot. It was agreed to defer any decisions until the Village has a separate more holistic view of the Grove and development around it. Once the agenda is available for the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, Chairperson Saunders will forward to all members.

*Park District:*

Dr. Flakne reported on the November 20<sup>th</sup> Park District meeting to look at overlapping initiatives. Tree diversity was among the topics, particularly in regards to a focus on oaks potentially leading to higher percentages than recommended by diversity guidelines. The Village and Park District have an opportunity to provide a good example for balancing planting priorities. It was agreed maintaining contact with the Park District is useful since they have recently experienced changes in staff and management. Dr. Flakne reported the Park District is planning to allow boating on Lake Glenview as early as this summer.

*CONSEG Meeting:*

Chairperson Saunders and Commissioner Halliday attended this meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The topic was "Environment and Faith." There was a large panel with representatives from various faith congregations who reported on what they had done, and Commissioner Halliday reported she was very impressed with the results. A synagogue in Glencoe created a large garden and then donated the food to the community. Chairperson Saunders spoke about "Bike to Worship" weekend done in the past, and how Trinity United Methodist was very active and got bike racks on Glenview Road for those who rode to church. She will contact Lynne Stiefel about doing that again. Commissioner Beck recalled working with the Greek Church to try to get pervious paving there. Years ago they were the greenest church in the U.S. Chairperson Saunders reported that a leader from Saints Peter and Paul Church spoke. He is an environmental specialist working on a panel at his church about having a solar farm in Glenview and putting solar panels on flat roofs. They are in preliminary conversations. Dr. Flakne stated that the Village has nominated the Public Works garage for the same program and there is a multi-step evaluation process before sites are finalized. Commissioner Newman commented that the Archdiocese has an efficiency program going on. The next CONSEG meeting is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup>. Once the topic is available, Chairperson Saunders will advise all NRC members.

*CRTI/Trees and Green Infrastructure Team Meeting:*

This meeting was attended by Dr. Flakne and Comm. Beck on January 12<sup>th</sup> at CMAP downtown. The Chicago Regional Trees Initiative is out of Morton Arboretum, but connects to many other agencies and organizations. They are involved with the Oak Ecosystem Recovery program. Dr. Flakne stated that the Chicago Trees Initiative is a good source of information and ideas for municipalities. They are involved with the Oak Ecosystem Recovery project and have been sponsoring workshops to help municipalities draft forest management plans, and are creating model tree ordinances. Comm. Beck has suggested that the ordinance levels be given names that reflect the community's opportunities to improve its programs rather than more generic "gold, silver, bronze" levels. Chairperson Saunders felt the Oak Ecosystem Recovery Program would be a great topic for the CONSEG group. Comm. Beck reported that they are doing "Treemendous" Trees in May. She noted that Arbor Day is in April and Invasive Species month is in May. Dr. Flakne reported that they want to videotape some interviews with mayors and managers in May. Chairperson Saunders asked if they will see some of this in Glenview and felt that Jim Patterson seems very responsive in general.

Comm. Beck reported that one of the presentations at the meeting included a chart showing that there are only 64 parcels of 100 to 200 acres of oak canopy remaining in the Chicago region, of which The Grove is one. Comm. Beck described a program in Melbourne, Australia to engage the community in reporting problems with local public trees through email. Instead, people began to get attached to the trees and the city started receiving love letters to trees. Chairman Saunders suggested this could be a good Garden Club or potential Eagle Scout project.

#### Planning for upcoming meetings/events

##### *Science Fair at Pleasant Ridge January 23<sup>rd</sup>:*

Comm. Newman reported the Science Fair is this weekend with seven judges including him and Comm. Chiappetta. Photos can be forwarded to the press.

There will be a movie about electronic recycling issues at 1:00pm in Highland Park sponsored by their Natural Resource Commission.

##### *Tree Communication Plan:*

Dr. Flakne reported there will be a meeting February 1<sup>st</sup> with Lynne and other local communicators to discuss the target Communication Plan for the year which will be a tree theme. As part of this effort, Dr. Flakne will be giving a talk on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the library on heritage trees and related topics.

##### *Arbor Day – April 29<sup>th</sup>:*

Dr. Flakne reported that Glenview always has a tree planting for Arbor Day. To be a Tree City USA requires having a public recognition for Arbor Day, and historically it has been done at a school. After contacting Pleasant Ridge, she was told they are not interested this year. She then contacted Glenbrook South and is waiting to hear back. It was suggested she contact Willowbrook if no response from Glenbrook South. Chairperson Saunders requested a status about the free tree the Village had won. Dr. Flakne said she was advised to call back in the spring.

##### *River Day:*

Dr. Flakne reported that Chicago River Day is Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. NRC members are encouraged to become the site captain or nominate others who could serve as site captain.

#### Outreach:

Chairperson Saunders reported that she was approached by three individuals from Prospect Heights' NRC while at the CONSEG meeting who said they started their committee because of Dr. Flakne. They do work days every other week and are interested in meeting with Glenview's NRC to discuss some ideas.

Chairperson Saunders suggested sharing program ideas with other communities. Comm. Beck said she could take something back to the Land Use group at CMAP. She raised the importance of migratory bird habitat. Comm. Halliday commented that the Audubon Society has a program about the migration corridors and working with people so there are plants available for birds to land, feed and sleep on.

Dr. Flakne talked about a program brought to the NRC's attention by Abigail Derby-Lewis, in which the Village of Northbrook issued a proclamation supporting monarch butterflies. They established a monarch way station. Monarch Watch has a program to certify and purchase signs recognizing monarch way stations. Dr. Flakne and Roy Fickel took the opportunity to work with an architect for the downtown Metra station to design a garden that will support monarch butterflies. She is considering working with scouts to complete the fieldwork and paperwork. She proposed doing a day at the train station and handing out milkweed seeds. It was suggested to contact some of the garden clubs. Comm. Beck suggested having milkweed seeds at the Street Fair, and noted it would be spring of 2017 before they are grown.

#### *Earth Day:*

There was discussion about christening the Riverwalk around Earth Day or perhaps at the Summer Festival with a ribbon cutting. Chairperson Saunders proposed having posters and doing a display.

## **7. New Business**

### *Glenview Art League /NRC Art competition:*

Chairperson Saunders shared a flier announcing the upcoming art competition and explained how it will work. The application will go on the website the first week of February. Anyone can apply and pay the \$20 fee, and submit a digital picture of a piece that is 24"x24" or less by June 1<sup>st</sup>. All surplus fees will go to the Glenview Art League and not the NRC. They will take as many entries as they can fit into their tent. Once there is a final version of the flyer, she will send it out. The entrants can be inspired by any natural area in Glenview and the work can be abstract.

Discussion ensued regarding the defining of boundaries for the competition. It was noted that the Art League membership is regional and not just from Glenview. If the Park District was co-sponsor, they would include Golf. It was emphasized that the art needs to reflect a specific location in the community of Glenview.

Suggestions were made about ways to improve the draft flyer. Comm. Halliday provided an example of her rendition of a poster for the art contest, as she would like to see artwork other than photos included. Comm. Halliday agreed to work further on the design and work with the Art League to try to create a more aesthetically pleasing flyer. An attempt will be made to create a poster with contact information shown on the front.

With Comm. Chiappetta graduating, Chairperson Saunders noted that a replacement will soon be needed for her position, and it needs to be a student who lives in Glenview. She would like to get a candidate with the capability to recruit volunteers. The school will be contacted to obtain recommendations.

**8. Adjournment**

Commissioner Newman moved to adjourn; Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 3-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eileen Schultz*  
Recording Secretary