

MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
January 23, 2017

1. Call to Order by the Chairperson

The January 23, 2017 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairperson Saunders at 7:03 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 Beck, Halliday, Newman, Ganim and Dr. Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison

ABSENT: Commissioner Daniel Chung

GUESTS: Scott Daniels, Glenview resident
Steve Swanson, Glenview Park District, Director of The Grove
Lauren Gabuzzi, Glenview resident
Elsa Fischer – Glenview Park District, Superintendent of Leisure Services

3. Approval of Minutes

The following changes were made to the November 21, 2016 Minutes:

- Page 1 - #5 – delete “on January 2”
- Old business – replace the word “something” with “program” when referring to Ms. Black
- Name Ms. Hill’s book by title (The Chicago River: A Natural and Unnatural History)
- Page 2
 - Bioswales should be one word
 - Refer to the parking lot by name (OLPH)
 - Paragraph 3, last line: change “is” to “are”
 - Paragraph 6 – delete last sentence
- Page 3 – last sentence – change to read, “...how Chicago Wilderness operates.”
- Page 4 – New Business – rewrite as requested by Commissioner Halliday

Commissioner Ganim moved to approve the November 21, 2016 minutes as amended. Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried 5-0.

4. General Communications

Commissioner Newman shared a Chicago Tribune article regarding transportation grants supporting biking.

5. Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None

OLD BUSINESS

Project and grant updates

Dr. Flakne reported staff is about to start a grant application for the *Sustain Our Great Lakes* Program. It would involve talking to the Park District regarding what can be done with the flood plain buyout properties. She stated that CHI-CAL denied an application Glenview recently applied for at Baxter. She noted that Glenview will apply for another CHI-CAL grant program in the spring.

Chairperson Saunders requested an update on the project to install monarch-friendly landscaping near the downtown train station. Dr. Flakne reported construction started, but was delayed with winter weather; however, it should be completed in the spring.

Comprehensive Plan update

Dr. Flakne explained the Plan is going through an approval process with the Village Board and that Natural Resources will be discussed at a February meeting. Once that date is finalized, Chairperson Saunders will forward so NRC members can attend.

Planning for upcoming meetings/events

- League of Women Voters Environmental Meeting - January 26, 2017 – 7:00-8:30 p.m.
This will be held in Glenview and be open to the public. Commissioner Beck explained this is an open discussion event at 7:00 p.m. for anyone interested in attending. Two issues for discussion are the train holding track issue and the proposed coal tar sealant ban.
- Great Rivers Chicago Meeting, February 16
Chairperson Saunders explained that the “Our Great Rivers” planning process is regional and that it is important for Glenview to have a presence.
- Wild Things Conference, February 18
A few NRC members plan to attend this all day conference at UIC.
- Friends of Chicago River 2017 Summit
Chairperson Saunders will share information on this March 9th event with Dr. Flakne.
- Margaret Frisbee Earth Day Talk, April 23rd @ 2:00p.m.
Prior to the talk, Ms. Frisbee may walk around with Dr. Flakne to view the river.
- River Day, May 13
Commissioner Beck is unavailable for this date due to a conflict with The Grove’s native plant sale.

Outreach

Chairperson Saunders shared a draft of the Call for Art for amateur artists. This year's contest will be two dimensional media. She asked that all commissioners review the draft prior to passing along to the Glenview Art League.

Chairperson Saunders shared an outreach success story of the Friends of Forest Preserve 2016 fall newsletter that referenced Glenview's environmental conservation efforts.

Commissioner Halliday attended the CONSEG meeting on the 10th which was very well attended. She shared some of the handouts distributed including information about pesticide regulations in Illinois. March's CONSEG topic will be stormwater. She also reported that Glencoe's Union Church is presenting a screening of "Before the Flood."

Dr. Flakne and Commissioners Beck, Ganim and Halliday attended a Commissioner training session which was aimed more at planning and zoning members, but were able to obtain some helpful information for the NRC.

Dr. Flakne will be working with an Eagle Scout working toward his Hornaday Award for the monarch project. This scouting award encourages and recognizes outstanding efforts in natural resource conservation and environmental protection.

NEW BUSINESS

Lake Glenview boating program (Guest speaker: Elsa Fischer)

Ms. Fischer spoke about the Gallery Park Guide and what is envisioned in the future for boating. The village will always own Lake Glenview and in 2022 Gallery Park will be turned over to the Park District, who currently takes care of it. The intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for boating on Lake Glenview is in the final stages. The boat launch has been enhanced and made wider, and sand has been added to the beach, along with improving the pathway to the launch site. There are some inlets and outlets that need to be marked with buoys in the spring.

Ms. Fischer shared a map and draft set of rules for boating on the lake. Although the lake is not being supervised, if park employees observe any violations they will contact administrative staff. No boat rental will be offered. Lauren Gabuzzi asked about an opening for the public and was advised it will be a "soft" opening in April. For now it is being promoted through Park District press, social media and the seasonal guide. Seasonal permits are to be issued for the person and not the boat. Chairperson Saunders asked about impacts from boating on any of the assets the village has been working to cultivate as a natural area. Ms. Fischer is hoping residents will be able to enjoy those assets from their boats. Commissioner Beck suggested the permit should indicate that it is to boat in a conservation area and this should also be posted near the boat launch. She commented about the possibility of scaring away fish in the area and expressed concerns about water quality and how boaters need to understand that. Ms. Fischer will address that issue with the Park District attorney. Chairperson Saunders agreed that saying it is "not swimmable" will convey the message about the poor water quality as a reason not to

swim. Ms. Fischer stated that mixing conservation and recreation is difficult to do but the boating rules should help protect wildlife. She is hoping that communicating with those using the lake can be done via the permit registration data base. Steve Swanson explained that the cormorant bird species tend to nest in tall trees and not around the lake; they just feed there, so boating won't interfere with their nesting. Commissioner Ganim suggested having the desk clerk note key points for using the lake when people apply for a permit.

Ms. Fischer noted this is a pilot program and not a full launch, since it is not known how many people will participate in the boating. Commissioner Beck suggested noting that in the publication of information. The Park District views boating as an opportunity to view the wildlife from a different perspective. Mr. Swanson suggested having volunteer stewards available on the lake to provide information to those who use it. Mr. Daniels asked about the handling of emergencies. Although it is a "boat at your own risk" site, Mr. Swanson noted that the Fire Department has an inflatable boat if needed and suggested reaching out to them to determine if they already have an action plan in place.

Chairperson Saunders asked about birds and seasonality, since any young water fowl that can't fly can be easily harassed by boaters. Commissioner Beck noted that there are already a lot of walkers in the area so the birds are fairly familiarized with people. Mr. Swanson noted that migratory birds will have passed through by May when boating season begins.

2017 Business Plan

Dr. Flakne reported that very little has been added or deleted; she added a few things the NRC does that were not included on 2016's Plan, but that should be included now such as OAKtober and the art contest.

Commissioner Beck commented about working with communications staff under Goal #1. She feels that basically everything the NRC does is part of the communications plan, and proposed inserting "for a themed communications campaign." Chairperson Saunders suggested using a monarch theme this year.

Commissioner Ganim asked about getting a business to sponsor NRC events and whether that is being done. Dr. Flakne explained that it is not necessarily funding, but rather working with the retailers to have them post flyers, etc. The wording will be changed to read "promote" instead of "support."

Commissioner Beck suggested deciding on what the NRC wants to promote through the Chamber when deciding on a theme. Chairperson Saunders noted that the green business award in the village has not been promoted recently and she would like to invite businesses and organizations to the Farmer's Market green table. She would like to revisit the award criteria, and asked that Commissioner Newman and Scott Daniels talk about some ideas for this and for bringing local businesses to the green table. Dr. Flakne will address this with Ms. Stiefel.

Commissioner Halliday spoke about a Q&A program she heard while in Florida and suggested offering a program for Glenview residents to call in with nature questions. Commissioner Beck noted that the Village website has a video segment called "Ask the Village." Ms. Gabuzzi suggested a Facebook group that could be helpful for community members. It was agreed that the green table is another great opportunity for sharing information. Commissioner Beck commented that one of the things lacking is displays to help draw people in. This will be addressed with Ms. Stiefel at the March NRC meeting.

It was agreed the Business Plan provides an accurate portrayal of what the NRC does. Dr. Flakne will make any revisions as requested.

Report to Village Board

Chairperson Saunders reported that she has gone to the Village Board in the past and that this should be done again in the spring. Dr. Flakne suggested doing this in May or any time after the election when there is a new Village Manager.

Commissioner Newman shared information on an organization called "SolSmart" which is a solar technical assistance provider done through Metropolitan Mayors and Managers. It is designed to recognize communities that are open for solar business. Communities receive designation for adopting programs and practices that help reduce costs and make solar more accessible for residents and businesses. Commissioner Beck agreed the SunShot initiative would be beneficial for the businesses. Dr. Flakne reported that she has attended a few meetings regarding community solar and that Glenview is still in the running as a pilot study community.

6. Adjournment

Commissioner Newman moved to adjourn; Commissioner Ganim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Schultz

Recording Secretary