

**MINUTES**  
**GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**January 22, 2018**

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

The January 22, 2018 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Acting Chairperson Beck at 7:04 p.m. in the Rugen Community Room at Village Hall.

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

Roll call was taken and Acting Chairperson Beck noted a quorum was present.

PRESENT: Acting Chairperson Beck, Commissioners Halliday, Ganim, Newman, Cummings, Dr. Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison  
ABSENT: Chairperson Saunders  
GUESTS: Scott Daniels, Glenview resident  
Jack Horbal, Glenview resident  
Abigail Derby-Lewis, Glenview Resident & Scientist at Field Museum of Natural History  
Farrukh Jafer, League of Women Voters

**3. Approval of Minutes**

The following changes were made to the November 20, 2017 Minutes:

- Page 1: On Approval of Minutes, change the seconder on the motion to Commissioner Ganim
- Page 2: On Old Business, change “Ton” Repp to “Tony”
- Page 3: Under Trees and Green Infrastructure Meeting – add the word “Morton” before Arboretum, and on last sentence of that paragraph, remove the word “Morton”

Commissioner Ganim moved to approve the November 20, 2017 Minutes as amended. Commissioner Newman seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried 5-0.

**4. General Communications**

Commissioner Halliday is presenting a lecture on her New Zealand bird viewing trip Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> to the North Shore Bird Club at 7:30 p.m. at the Evanston Ecology Center.

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

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- *None*

## OLD BUSINESS

- Milkweed and monarch planning (Guest: Abigail Derby-Lewis)  
Dr. Derby-Lewis explained that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is assessing the status of the monarch butterfly and has to make a decision by the end of 2019 on whether to list it as an endangered species. There are many things that go into that assessment. One is to determine if there are enough efforts currently in place to avoid listing this species. The Field Museum was asked by the government to determine what role/contribution urban areas can make. The Museum has an interdisciplinary team of conservation ecologists who are trying to determine the availability of milkweed plants in urban areas traditionally considered non-productive. A study was piloted last May in four larger areas and funding was obtained to down-size to small and mid-sized communities. When the Village President, Jim Patterson, signed the Monarch Pledge, Dr. Derby-Lewis realized that Glenview should be included in the study for its innovative and green infrastructure policies. A monarch conservation plan drafted by Dr. Flakne is a major opportunity to incorporate the Field Museum's technical and special support to activate this plan which would be the first in the Midwest.

According to Field Museum analysis, cities east of the Rockies can contribute 20% of the milkweed to enable the monarch to survive. It will take all land use types to meet that goal. Dr. Derby-Lewis commented about the NRC's Business Plan and Goal 2 about partnering with local organizations. She is finding there is currently a very high awareness of the plight of the monarch and many citizens want to do something. Some of the big box stores are now selling milkweed, but not all. Commissioner Beck suggested including and advertising the Grove's native plant sale. She also spoke with Mary Lamb in Lurvey's and suggested having Dr. Derby-Lewis speak with them. It was noted that there is a misconception that people can be allergic to milkweed. Mr. Horbal asked if they've considered working with Wagner Farm's 4H group and the Grove. Commissioner Beck noted the NRC does participate at the Green Table. Dr. Derby-Lewis stated they are testing best practices to encourage milkweed planting right now and potted plants are usually successful.

Commissioner Beck spoke about the original assessment done of natural areas in the Village. She asked if there is a particular site that makes Glenview a good candidate to make the Village successful for adding more sites for gardens. Dr. Flakne showed the map generated by the interns of where milkweed is currently present in Glenview and noted that an updated map including more recent data will be available soon. Dr. Derby-Lewis commented that the highest potential for milkweed increase in the village is in residential areas. Commissioner Beck talked about the Little Garden Club in Wilmette who decided the way to handle some of the natives is with pocket gardens. Along with the Heritage Tree Program, she proposed having a contest involving pocket gardens. She also suggested having a float in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade to help make the topic more approachable.

Commissioner Ganim asked how nectar plants fit into this plan. Dr. Derby-Lewis explained that the monarchs lay eggs on milkweed, and the upper Great Lakes area is the most important region for breeding. On their southward journey adult butterflies are fueled by nectar sources. Dr. Derby-Lewis suggested a “milkweed plus” campaign to emphasize both milkweeds and nectar plants. It should include plants that people already value or love. Commissioner Beck stated that the public relations materials are important, but it is difficult for Glenview to create those. She asked if the Museum would be interested in helping produce materials. Dr. Derby-Lewis stated that there are resources on the Museum’s website, but they need some revising. They provide the blooming times for several species, and there are several blogs on how to create monarch habitats in the Midwest.

Commissioner Beck asked what is needed from the NRC. Dr. Flakne explained the monarch conservation plan. It is a draft that can be refined and there are many decisions yet to be made about it and the level of formality at which it will be adopted. The format and introductory information is a template taken directly from plans from Fayetteville and Oklahoma City. Dr. Derby-Lewis reported that of the 205 cities that have taken the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge, there are a handful that have really gotten to the step of creating a monarch conservation plan. Those are all in the southeast so Glenview would be the first to be a case study for the Museum and would be the first village in the midwest. Dr. Flakne stated that the GIS Department is also working on a story map about monarchs in Glenview.

Commissioner Beck asked with Glenview needs to do to get a Field Museum sticker. Dr. Flakne commented that there is a “bee city USA” and she can look into it further. Commissioner Beck commented that there are certain things the NRC does at certain times of year and it is important to know when to talk about milkweed, and spring season is the time to plant. Dr. Derby-Lewis clarified that milkweed can be planted into the fall, depending on weather. Dr. Flakne asked that the NRC members review the plan and bring comments back to the next meeting. One of the key things throughout is there are many programs the NRC has going that are easily relatable to this effort. When CMAP comes in April, the NRC should integrate this into the project being done with them. There are constantly opportunities to get out and make these points. Commissioner Beck asked what the awareness is at the high school level. Commissioner Cummings stated the students have talked a little about milkweed and monarch conservation in some Biology classes, but it is not a focus. He thinks some programs there would be helpful. Dr. Flakne reported that Commissioner Cummings and Dr. Derby-Lewis are planning a pollinator themed presentation at the Glenview Library on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Beck suggested providing the library with some book titles to display at that time.

- **Glenview Environmental Sustainability Award**  
Commissioner Newman reported that he, Scott Daniels and Mark Kopec have been working on the Green Award. They presented what they hope is the last version, which

reflects comments from previous NRC meetings. The main goal is providing recognition to organizations in Glenview for sustainability. There are three separate categories of the award – innovation, leadership, and education and outreach. This will be an annual award to recognize work done in the past year. Those eligible are anyone engaged in sustainable practices in Glenview. Scope of projects is very broad – waste, energy, water, and some things that will bring in green materials and have reduced environmental impact. There are some out of scope things like human rights. An application form will be drafted. The application includes location, contact info, category of award, and type of business. Organizations with compliance issues will not qualify. At least for the first year, awards may be given close to “America Recycles” Day in the fall and possibly move it up to Earth Day in subsequent years. Several outreach methods will be used, including asking a group of GBS students to contact local businesses. Commissioner Cummings can look at some of the high school clubs to find some interested students. They can also reach out to the Rotary and Lions Clubs. The actual award will be a plaque or certificate. At least three people will review the award submissions, with the Village having final say.

Commissioners Ganim and Halliday presented some minor additions to the final draft. Dr. Flakne spoke with Tony Repp regarding being the staff lead contact. A meeting with Mr. Repp and Lynne Stiefel will be arranged when Commissioner Newman is ready for them to review the plan.

Commissioner Newman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ganim, to approve the Glenview Environmental Sustainability Award draft. Upon voice vote, the motion carried 4-0.

- 2018 Business Plan

Commissioner Beck commented that it might be good to consider all projects and responsibilities each season each thing happens during. She proposed having another column with the event timing; this would be a start date in addition to a due date. Dr. Flakne noted that in some cases that will be applicable, but other goals are just ongoing.

Goal #1

Dr. Flakne suggested adding the Sustainability Award into this goal. All members agreed to include it.

Goal #2

Dr. Newman asked about the Wild Things Conference. Dr. Flakne explained that is held every other year and it is not 2018. She will leave the Conference in as a place holder as an example. Commissioner Beck asked if the Village paid its Chicago Wilderness dues and was informed by Dr. Flakne they were paid.

Goal #3

Dr. Flakne noted that the Monarch Conservation Plan is already included.

#### Goal #4

Commissioner Ganim suggested changing due date from 2017 to 2018.

#### Goal #5

Commissioner Beck asked about reviewing a Plan for Nature. Dr. Flakne stated that this item was added from discussion at the November meeting. At that meeting Chairperson Saunders spoke about trying to get the Village to stick with the Plan for Nature which is getting outdated. Commissioner Beck suggested looking at the Comprehensive Plan Natural Resources chapter. Dr. Flakne noted the website has the detailed Plan for Nature. She recommended talking about the Plan in March to refresh everyone's memory before beginning the project with CMAP.

- **2018 Communications Campaign**

The NRC typically hosts Lynne Stiefel at the March meeting to determine a theme for the year for the communications campaign for the Village. In 2017 the theme was monarchs, and in 2016 it was trees. Commissioner Beck suggested that it would be good for the Board to hear how much the NRC actual does, such as the Comp Plan that was just completed, upcoming work with CMAP and the monarch plan. Mr. Daniels commented these NRC programs are multi-year programs that can't just be abandoned. Commissioner Ganim noted the Sustainability Award will require a lot of press. Commissioner Newman suggested something about skunks or coyotes. Dr. Flakne noted there was a basic article coming out in the next newsletter about coyotes. Commissioner Newman also suggested a focus on urban soils. Commissioner Halliday suggested migration corridors since the three rivers act as migration corridors. All of these ideas will be reviewed at the March meeting to finalize a theme.

- **2018 Event Planning**

- **Pollinator presentation – April 21<sup>st</sup>**

This will be held at the Glenview Public Library.

- **Arbor Day - April 27<sup>th</sup>**

This will probably take place at Glenbrook South again, but that is not yet confirmed.

- **Fish Release, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

The Rotary encouraged the Park District and Village to do this event last year to stock Lake Glenview with fish. In spite of the rainy and cold weather, it was very well attended. They will review planning for an event with possibly even larger turnout.

- **River Clean-Ups – May 12<sup>th</sup>**

It was noted there are several other events also occurring that day, including the Grove Plant Sale.

- **Farmer's Market Green Table**

All NRC members will participate in various aspects of the Green Table. Chairperson Saunders usually maintains the main calendar of who is participating for each topic.

- **OAKtober**

This event will be planned as the month gets closer.

### **Other Items**

Commissioner Beck spoke about the Park District going to referendum in an attempt to get residents to approve money for the Glenview Ice Center and for open space, which she requested be called “working hands” because the term open space does not convey the environmental value the areas can provide. She asked if there is a special piece of property from the NRC’s original list that is a partnership opportunity or really in need of protection because it is going to be developed. Dr. Flakne stated the Baxter Parcel offers a lot of opportunity the Village could take advantage of, and the floodplain buyout parcels are also high-opportunity areas.

### **6. Adjournment**

Commissioner Ganim moved to adjourn; Commissioner Newman seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried **4-0**. Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eileen Schultz*

Recording Secretary