

**MINUTES**  
**GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**July 16, 2018**

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

The July 16, 2018 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairperson Saunders at 7:01 p.m. in the Rugen Community Room at Village 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, Ganim, Newman  
Dr. Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison  
ABSENT: Commissioners Halliday and Cummings  
GUESTS: Scott Daniels, Glenview resident  
Jackie Pulak, Ecological Restoration intern  
Bruce Rabin, Glenview resident  
Katy Russell, Glenview resident  
Lisa Mende, Ecological Restoration intern  
Carol Freeman, resident

**3. Approval of Minutes**

The following changes were made to the May 7, 2018 Minutes:

- Page 1: 4. General Communications, change to “Chairperson Saunders reported that the July 10<sup>th</sup> Go Green Illinois meeting will feature the Great Rivers Chicago initiative.”
- Page 2: Old Business, ¶3, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, change to “Ms. Stiefel reported that the new Police Department medication drop-off bin has been very successful.”
- Page 3: Other Items, bottom of page, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, change to “Commissioner Beck asked about trees being cut along the river banks near residences.”
- Page 4: Other Items, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, correct the surname to “Adelmann.”

Commissioner Newman moved to approve the May 7, 2018 Minutes as complete and final. Commissioner Ganim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried 4-0.

**4. General Communications**

Chairperson Saunders reported that Glenview resident and Environmental Review Committee member, Abigail Derby Lewis, was quoted in the Chicago Tribune Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> article on monarchs.

Dr. Flakne reported that the Glenview side of Techny Basin had recently been mowed in error by MWRD (Metropolitan Water Reclamation District). The basin is a natural habitat seeded with native vegetation. Acting on information from Glenview resident Carol Freeman, Dr. Flakne emailed MWRD and left a note on their equipment at the site. MWRD responded that they

normally mow north of Willow Road to control invasive species. They apologized for mowing the wrong area, as the supervisor who normally directed the mowing was on vacation. Concerned residents notified MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore, who acknowledged the error at MWRD's board meeting. Although Dr. Flakne did not ask for remediation, she said she could ask MWRD for seed.

Commissioner Beck said this is an opportunity to advise Northbrook that they have an amenity in their community and to address the problem of upstream invasive species. MWRD would probably appreciate that there would be fewer places to mow. She suggested Commissioner Shore might be an effective liaison.

Chairperson Saunders noted the Willow Hill naturalization initiative near Techny Basin could be revisited with participation by Northbrook, Glenview, and MWRD.

Ms. Freeman said the area north of Willow Rd. is becoming known as a birding area and has some native plants, which may mean that it is not necessary to bald-cut it. She pointed out to the mowers at Techny Basin that they were wiping out native species that supported monarch habitat. She has been in contact with MWRD Commissioner Shore, and offered the NRC her services as a liaison and advocate.

Commissioner Beck said she felt sorry for the mowers because they are doing their job. The task would be to show Northbrook officials how Glenview has naturalized habitat to motivate them in this direction. Commissioner Ganim added that Glenview has a bike path on its side. Commissioner Beck further noted the opportunity to seed more milkweed, and Commissioner Ganim suggested directional signage.

Dr. Flakne, in response to Chairperson Saunders, said that she has notified the appropriate channels about the recent mowing. Chairperson Saunders offered to contact MWRD Commissioner Shore and copy Dr. Flakne and Jeff Brady on the communication.

Dr. Flakne, in response to Scott Daniels, said the mowed areas would grow back next year.

Chairperson Saunders said MWRD forgot to drop off two hundred trees at the July Farmer's Market, but there are still three upcoming tree handouts.

Chairperson Saunders requested commissioners' input in her MWRD communication, and offered to incorporate some of Ms. Freeman's suggestions. She noted, in addition to Dr. Flakne and Ms. Freeman's vigilance, MWRD has a citizen reporting app.

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

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- *None*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Glenview Environmental Sustainability Award update

Dr. Flakne said the ESA has been launched. Communications Manager Lynne Stiefel has asked the NRC to help her advertise the applications due September 1<sup>st</sup> to Dr. Flakne.

Chairperson Saunders requested an email copy to commissioners and said they should put copies at the Green Table; Scott Daniels said the Chamber of Commerce should have copies.

- Grant opportunities

Dr. Flakne is a subgrantee on a fall seeding project to enhance monarch habitat, mainly in Gallery Park and Techny Basin. She would like to swap some of the acreage to use some of the seed at the adjacent Baxter parcel to maximize the project since a watershed grant did not materialize as hoped. The grant funds purchase and installation of the seed.

Jackie Pulak and Lisa Mende, Ecological Restoration interns, are helping to wrap up a 319 West Fork bank stabilization grant for an area behind Sleepy Hollow Park; the work will include streambank stabilization and purification of runoff. The deadline for the pre-proposal to Lake County Stormwater Management Commission is July 17<sup>th</sup>; the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Mende, a Northwestern environmental science major, likes working directly with people in the community, going on tree calls, and removing buckthorn along Willow Road.

Ms. Pulak, entering her last year at the University of Illinois, Champaign, is majoring in earth society and environmental sustainability, with a minor in political science (environmental policy). She spent a semester in Canberra, Australia, where she interned in habitat restoration. She has enjoyed her Glenview internship because of the high level of community involvement and Dr. Flakne's skill in implementing projects.

Scott Daniels asked how they found grants. Ms. Pulak noted that Dr. Flakne's connections within the natural resources community help to research grants. Commissioner Beck added there is a federal website, and highlighted the meaning of "319" as Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Chairperson Saunders thanked the interns for their work and said that Glenview was fortunate to have Dr. Flakne in the position of Natural Resources Manager.

- CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning) scheduling

Dr. Flakne said they have received a technical assistance grant to review codes and ordinances in light of the Plan for Nature and its incorporation into the Comprehensive Plan. The review, which is outside her area of expertise, had been postponed for Comprehensive Plan updates. Commissioner Newman asked if there was a danger that the opportunity for assistance could be lost. Dr. Flakne indicated she was concerned, but was confident that village officials, who had negotiated with CMAP, were sensitive to the timeframe. Commissioner Beck noted that the On to 2050 Plan in CMAP, substantially funded by transportation dollars, is

scheduled to launch October 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a unique opportunity for Glenview to sell itself because of the environmental regulations already in the zoning code.

- Heritage tree applications
  - Dr. Flakne said there is one outstanding application from Gail and Steve Lee on Landwehr Road for a silver maple. The interns will help her with the certificates.
  
- Review of recent meetings/events
  - River Day, May 12
    - It was very successful, even though Dr. Flakne was unable to attend. Attendees included high school students, from the gardening club, and Interact. Sandwiches and tee shirts were provided.
  
  - Farmer's Market Green Table to date
    - Chairperson Saunders said attendance seems to have declined, though the Green Table is doing well. There are nineteen events scheduled. Among them, over thirty bikes were collected to be fixed up and given to people who really need them. This was so successful that more bikes will be collected on August 18. Commissioner Newman said this had been advertised on the NextDoor app. Chairperson Saunders said she would check with the Farmer's Market manager on the attendance count.
  
  - Go Green Illinois meeting, July 10
    - Commissioner Beck said it was well attended, and the presentations were good. Some villages have a sustainability committee, and others are doing good work without a committee. The "Shed the Straw" concept has caught on. Resident Bruce Rabin liked the meeting, though noted that only straws constitute only 3% of the plastic pollution of the ocean. Commissioner Beck said the percentage is misleading because the plastic in the straw is less degradable than other plastic. The straws are a starting point.
  
- Planning for future events
  - **Green Infrastructure Bike Tour, July 28**
    - Dr. Flakne will lead riders around town to highlight some of the structural improvements made to provide green infrastructure. Dr. Flakne said six people are signed up. She hopes for more attendees, but is flexible with the sign-up schedule because of the weather, cancellations, date conflicts, and last-minute participants who can change the count. She shared flyers to distribute at the train station, the farm, and other locations.
  
  - **Fall river cleanup**
    - Dr. Flakne said she was open to scheduling suggestions, preferably a Sunday, mid-October to early November. Mr. Daniels asked if they needed to wait for a

freeze. Dr. Flakne said that it was not necessary for everything to be dormant. Chairperson Saunders selected Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

- **OAKtober**

This event is scheduled October 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The walk usually takes a little over an hour. There is a give-away on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Flakne will ask the Grove about providing a flyer.

### **Other Items**

Commissioner Newman noticed a number of trees that have come down recently due to construction and problems around the Waukegan Road Mariano's parking. He suggested that the library host an arborist from the Morton Arboretum to discuss tree replacement. Chairperson Saunders said Arbor Day or Earth Week might be good times to schedule a talk, since October is likely booked at the library.

Katy Russell said advice on which trees on the village's list would be best suited for a resident's property would be very helpful. Dr. Flakne said the Arboretum has a very good printed selector guide on trees; the website guide has an interactive tool that merits improvement.

Chairperson Saunders said she could reach out to Glenview Public Library Communications Director, Hilary Gabel, to schedule a March presentation.

Commissioner Beck said that there are problems with the pine trees, so it might be good to talk about them. Dr. Flakne said there was a pine tree fungus that was proliferating because of the damp and heat. Not much can be done; and the cost of fungicide sprays is prohibitive, the application, extremely difficult. The ash tree problem has largely run its course in this area. Dr. Flakne said it was important to understand that some of the trees have survived because the owner has taken care of them and treated them. The trees at the Mariano's on Waukegan Road are dying because of construction disturbances.

Katy Russell shared her concerns over a large tree on a Wagner Road property up for sale. Because the property is a potential teardown, she fears its impact on the tree. Dr. Flakne said a permit is required to remove trees that are 16 inches or more in diameter. Although the tree preservation ordinance does not prevent the removal of the tree, it can make it very expensive. The Plan Commission can also intervene to deny removal, which they have done on a couple of occasions.

Commissioner Beck noted it is the anniversary year to commemorate the Plan for Nature. Ms. Freeman suggested an open house at the Tyner Center with refreshments and different tables. Chairperson Saunders said they would include it in the agenda for the next meeting and recommended Lynne Stiefel assist them in organizing the event.

## **6. Adjournment**

Commissioner Newman moved to adjourn; Commissioner Ganim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jean Simons*

Recording Secretary