

**MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
April 19, 2004**

Call to Order by the Chairman

The April 19, 2004, meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairman Fuller at 7:08 p.m. in the Lunchroom of the Village Hall.

Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum

Roll call was taken and Chairman Fuller noted a quorum was present.

PRESENT: Commissioners Beck, Blomquist, Freeman, Glennemeier and
Chairman Fuller

ALSO PRESENT: Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison

GUEST: Nancy Halliday, retired naturalist

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fuller asked for corrections or comments to the March 30, 2004 minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting. The Commissioners were unable to review a copy of those minutes so it will be discussed at the next meeting.

General Communications

None.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

Old Business

Progress Report for Finding a Student Member of Commission

None.

Progress Report for Village of Glenview Staff Presentations

Ms. Flakne said Mr. Dan Roseman was contacted to discuss the tree ordinance and Mr. Jeff Brady was contacted to discuss the bicycle provisions. They were not available for this evening's meeting but may be available for a future meeting. Ms. Flakne will provide them with the Natural Resources Commission's (NRC) meeting schedule and they will advise her when it is convenient for them to attend a meeting.

Confirm Regular Meeting Dates

The Natural Resources Commission established a regular meeting date on the second Monday of the month beginning June 1, 2004. The NRC's next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 11, 2004.

It was agreed that no new business will be started after 10:00 p.m.

New Business

Review Proposals for the Assessment Report for the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River

Chairman Fuller said the Natural Resource Commission wants to develop a natural resource plan for the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River and will hire someone to conduct an inventory assessment. A request for proposal was mailed soliciting bids to: Mr. John White, Applied Ecological Services (AES), and Conservation Design Forum (CDF). Mr. White and AES joined together to submit one proposal and CDF also submitted a proposal.

Chairman Fuller said the NRC developed the request for proposals and explained there was a budget constraint of \$10,000. Both received bids stated what work could be completed for that amount and should the Commission find more funds, additional work could be performed.

Chairman Fuller said the combined bid from Applied Ecological Services and John White got more of the substance of the proposal into the \$10,000 budget. They also may be stronger on the aquatic side. Commissioner Beck stated the Park District has worked with both Applied Ecological Services and John White separately, and being teamed together would submit a high-quality report. AES spelled out more precisely what their field work would be and was more detailed. Commissioner Freeman said CDF allowed for only one walk-through, while AES allowed for two walk-throughs, which would provide the Commission with a good start, along with the completed data.

Commissioner Blomquist has seen more of CDF's reports but has heard good things about AES and especially John White. Mr. White has a varied experience in this area—a generalist with specialist knowledge. Chairman Fuller added that Mr. White is known for the quality of his work.

Ms. Flakne said that in the AES proposal, all of the presentations and meetings are not included in the \$10,000 budget.

Chairman Fuller would like clarification on the proposal from Applied Ecological Services and John White on the following points:

-- Task Five, Aquatic Habitat: the Commission would like a map that shows where the mud flats are located and related suggestions and commentary.

-- Phase Four, Task Six, Ecological Condition Report: there is no mention of a draft report and there should be feed-back to assure the Commission the information they're receiving is what they want.

-- In addition to the two color copies of the Ecological Condition Report, the NRC also wants the report in electronic format on disk.

-- Will there be a presentation to the NRC?

-- The NRC would like to meet with John White to discuss the report.

Commissioner Beck moved that Chairman Fuller and Ms. Flakne begin negotiating with Applied Ecological Services and John White to clarify the proposal to their satisfaction. Commissioner Blomquist seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried.

Chairman Fuller has seen a report that Mr. White wrote for The Grove and thought it was exemplary.

Outline of a Report for the Natural Resources Plan for the West Fork

Chairman Fuller said the report the Commission will receive from the consultant is driven by the request for proposal (RFP) and the proposal. He asked what the Commission should put into a natural resources plan to guide the Village, Trustees, and public about the West Fork. What are natural resources in an urban context and the valuable habitats?

Commissioner Beck mentioned certain areas needed protection while other areas could be used as interpretive spots with paths. Commissioner Blomquist suggested looking to other urban and suburban rivers that have gone through similar planning stages. It would be interesting to see how other communities have approached their natural resources. It would help to educate the Village Board and Planning Commission that similar redevelopment work has been done elsewhere.

Commissioner Beck has toured some work being done in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and thought it would be an interesting field trip for the Commissioners.

Areas the Natural Resources Commission Can Focus On

- Purchase more land
- Ban on chemicals within a certain distance from water
- Accountability for cleaning water from surrounding companies
- What to do with Lot 16
- Could detention ponds be naturalized
- Educate homeowners

Commissioner Beck said a report is being compiled called the Use Attainability Study that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is conducting to determine what use is attainable in the Chicago River. The non-point source pollution situation (what comes off of farms and washes off city and suburban streets) is a huge problem. Glenview is one of the communities that abides by a storm water permit. There are different standards for anything that is in the Great Lakes basin. Through the Great Lakes Initiative (GLI) water quality standards for the aquatic life is being protected more than human life. In the Conservation Congress, people are upset about the standards and the quality of the Chicago and Des Plaines Rivers.

Commissioner Blomquist noted the rising cost in river-front property along the North Branch of the Chicago River. Commissioner Glennemeier wondered whether a Glenview river walk is feasible. Commissioner Beck suggested watching the property on which the Dominick's Food Store is located on Waukegan Road as it may be identified as a potential parcel of land that could be redeveloped. Commissioner Freeman said the NRC should be aware of all relevant property that may come up for sale, in order to protect and preserved it. Commissioner Glennemeier suggested creating a certificate that could be awarded to a commercial riverfront property owner that is taking good care of its environment. Commissioner Blomquist thought of a "Good Neighbor" designation. Commissioner Beck mentioned conservation easements whereby if people are willing to leave a certain amount of their property next to the river in a natural state then they may have reduced taxes or no taxes.

Chairman Fuller wondered what the Natural Resources Commission could do to bring visibility to programs like natural gardening and organizing a Chapter of Wild Ones. Commissioner Freeman thought of offering a series of lectures or classes. People want to do the right thing, but they need information and inspiration to get started. Commissioner Beck said it could be done through the Park District, listed in its brochure. The NRC could arrange for the speakers. Commissioner Blomquist said the entire spectrum of gardeners should be considered and supported.

Commissioner Beck expressed her disappointment in the reinstatement of pesticides in Wilmette over what they thought was a failed attempt at natural weed eradication. Chairman Fuller wants the Commission to examine Glenview's weed ordinance. Commissioner Blomquist said the Commission should use some of its funds to develop pamphlets to have community outreach. Commissioner Beck said the NRC, Park District, and Village should illuminate some interesting facets of Glenview and explain how to take care of them. Perhaps advertising or articles in THE GLENVIEW ANNOUNCEMENTS, like the weekly drawing of the prairie flower. Commissioner Freeman suggested setting up a website. Commissioner Glennemeier said some communities have the Yellow Fish Road Program where a fish is spray-painted on the side of the road showing where pollutants are

being introduced into the river--showing what is put on the street will make its way to the surface waters.

Chairman Fuller said the Commission should work on a strategy of priorities for the Natural Resources Commission. Inform people in pamphlet form, as well as on a website, about nature in Glenview and what is our potential may be done.

Commissioner Beck said NRC should work on educating the public on the West Nile virus. Studies have been conducted which show large amounts of mosquito eggs were located in storm drains and catch basins. Certain suburbs had a much higher number of eggs than others. Some people want The Grove to be sprayed. There are more mosquitos in people's driveways. Ms. Halliday said there are test locations of mosquito larvae traps to determine if they are infected with the West Nile virus.

Commissioner Beck suggested the Commission have an easel in its meeting room.

Chairman Fuller distributed to Commissioners a draft outline of the Natural Resource Commission plan to present to the Village Trustees and requested Commissioners comments on it and also suggested each Commissioner formulate their ideas and be ready to discuss them at the next meeting. In a way, it will be a marketing tool for nature.

Commissioner Glennemeier suggested informing the residents of Glenview that there is a Natural Resources Commission.

Commissioner Beck said the NRC should communicate with the receiving water people and the communities who send the water to Glenview. The NRC should establish where Glenview fits in relation to water in this area. The Northeast Illinois Planning Commission is going through a public process of coming up with a comprehensive plan for the whole region. Commissioner Beck distributed a copy of a series on sustainability and an older document which shows the environmental goals of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency of this region and hits on some of the high points. It is important to fit people into the plan. Mention how things used to be, and why they got to be how they are now, and what can be done. Commissioner Blomquist said the NRC should look at successful watersheds. There are videos available on watersheds.

Chairman Fuller said he would like to find a suburban river that was spoiled but is now healthy. There is a Friends of the Chicago River North Branch Watershed planning effort which the NRC may be able to compliment. Ms. Flakne explained it is a planning effort without any financial backing to implement plans, however, a consultant was able to prepare maps and outline a plan with priorities. Commissioner Blomquist would like a

copy of it. Ms. Flakne suggested getting a copy on-line from the Lake County Storm Water Management.

Chairman Fuller thought the NRC would have some impact on water quality, but should have a large influence on the habitat of the river and elsewhere.

Commissioner Glennemeier believed that education should be one of the Commission's main focus and improving the Commission's ability for management. Commissioner Freeman thought the Commission should consider its budget to put a communication plan into action.

Chairman Fuller would like the Commission to come up with its own strategic approach: materials for pamphlets, website, put consultant's product into a plan, what are the pieces that are not in the plan. Commissioner Beck suggested getting on cable television and having someone film one of the river walks, perhaps a documentary. Commissioner Glennemeier asked where the Glenview residents get information about the community and was told: THE GLENVIEW ANNOUNCEMENTS, GVTV, and THE WATCH. Commissioner Freeman suggested she and Mr. Leif Otto would be happy to put together a program for GVTV. Leif may be able to attend the next NRC meeting. Commissioner Beck said the cable show should inform but also direct people to the Park District or Village websites. Commissioner Blomquist suggested getting volunteers for the river clean up. Chairman Fuller said this will allow residents to see what Glenview's natural heritage is and realize they have some of it in their backyard and some of it in the parkway trees, as well as in The Grove, prairie, and forest preserves. The community can influence the decision makers.

Ms. Halliday often visits Sleepy Hollow Park. There is a lot of garlic mustard and buckthorn around the bicycle paths where wild flowers should be. It would be nice if a group of children from Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) or boy scouts or girl scouts would clean up the park. The Park District or Village hopefully would supply a shredder to destroy the buckthorn. Chairman Fuller suggested an "Adopt a Spot" program. Commissioner Beck said the Park District provides a major clean up of each park every three years where buckthorn is removed, trees are trimmed, etc. Commissioner Blomquist suggested informing the public of NRC actions. Ms. Janet Spector Bishop is the Communications Director for the Village who could be updated on NRC activities.

Chairman Fuller would like the Commissioners to visit the parks along the river together. They will meet on Saturday, May 15 at 1:30 p.m. to visit some parks. Commissioner Beck will contact Mr. Fred Gullen and ask him to conduct the tour. The meeting place will either be at Park District headquarters on Prairie Street or on Willow Road.

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Chairman Fuller said all are invited to the river clean-up on Saturday, May 8 from 9 a.m. – noon with a rain day of Sunday, May 9. Chairman Fuller would like the Commissioners to review the outline and priorities. Chairman Fuller and Ms. Flakne will schedule a meeting with the Village planners to discuss watershed maps. Commissioner Beck will electronically send information from NIPC maps. The NRCS Streamwood office has old flyovers because the CCC was here.

Adjournment

Commissioner Blomquist moved to adjourn. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott
Recording Secretary