

**MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
May 11, 2004**

Call to Order by the Chairman

The May 11, 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 Blomquist, Freeman, Glennemeier and
Chairman Fuller

ABSENT: Commissioner Beck

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

GUESTS: Mr. Jeff Brady, Village Planner
Mr. Bill Porter, Director of Public Works
Mr. Chris Clark, Assistant Director of Public Works
Mr. Dan Roseman, Tree Preservation Officer
Mr. Leif Otto, videographer
Ms. Nancy Halliday, retired naturalist
Mr. Peter Saolomon

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fuller asked for corrections or comments to the March 30, 2004 minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting. There were no corrections.

Commissioner Glennemeier moved to approve the March 30, 2004 minutes. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried.

Chairman Fuller asked for corrections or comments to the April 19, 2004 minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting. There were no corrections.

Commissioner Glennemeier moved to approve the April 19, 2004 minutes. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried.

General Communications

None.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

Old Business

Progress Report for Accepting a Proposal for the Assessment Report for the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River

Chairman Fuller reported that two proposals were received. The combined proposal from Applied Ecological Services (AES) and Mr. John White needed some aspects clarified. Chairman Fuller and Ms. Flakne spoke with AES on a conference call and AES agreed to include points recommended by Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and sent a letter to Ms. Flakne confirming their intention. There will be a consultation at the outset of the project. If the NRC needs support in a public meeting later, that will be handled under a separate purchase order.

Commissioner Blomquist moved to recommend acceptance of the modified inventory assessment contract proposal submitted by Applied Ecological Services and Mr. John White to develop a natural resource plan for the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River. Commissioner Glennemeier seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried.

Planning for May 15, 2004 Field Trip

Chairman Fuller said there is a NRC field trip with Mr. Fred Gullen scheduled on May 15, 2004 to look at the Park District properties up and down the West Fork. Commissioners should assemble at the Senior Center area of the Park Center at 1:30 p.m. to meet the bus. This field trip is open to the public.

Discussion of Commission Priorities

At the April 19, 2004 NRC meeting, Chairman Fuller distributed to Commissioners a draft list of NRC priorities. It has two purposes: 1) set the Natural Resource Commission's priorities; and 2) inform the Village Board as to NRC's intentions. The Commissioners are requested to review this list, add their comments, and send the changes to Chairman Fuller by May 18. It will then be forwarded to the Village Board.

Chairman Fuller distributed to Commissioners a copy of "Developing A Watershed Management Plan for Water Quality" from Michigan DDQ (supplied by Commissioner Beck), which is very strongly oriented to water quality. While the NRC is concerned with water quality, its focus is more with physical and biological habitats. It is important to inform the public that chemicals which are put in their drains effect the river.

New Business

Presentation of Village Bike Path Plans

Mr. Jeff Brady, Village Planner, referred Commissioners to material that was included in their meeting packet. The excerpts are from the Village's Comprehensive Plan (dated February, 2004) which the Plan Commission is considering and will soon recommend to the Board of Trustees for approval in June, 2004. It includes a map of various proposed bike trails and their descriptions, some ideas of signage, and sharing of roadways for bicycles and automobiles. It formulates a plan on how a bike trail system can be implemented throughout the Village, in addition to the plan that is currently in use. The Comprehensive Plan is a guideline for how the Village wants to see Glenview developed in the next 10-20 years.

The larger map represents the master plan for the bike map of the Village. There is the North Branch Trail that is on the east side of the Village, through the Cook Country Forest Preserve. On the west side of town is the Des Plaines River Trail which is another Cook County trail. The idea is that if grant funds become available, a connection will be built to join these paths. There is the Techny Bike Path which connects the Morton Grove Train Station from the south to the Northbrook Train Station to the north. The idea is the Techny Trail goes through the Techny Basin. Some of the improvements that are supposed to happen in Northbrook, in the development north of Willow Road, will hopefully incorporate some of the Techny Trail as the Techny Trail section plan for the south side in Morton Grove. The Village is in the final design stages of getting a bridge over Golf Road.

The Village would like to connect the existing Glenview Trail with the existing Techny Trail. The trails will be put together as funds permit. There is a planned path around the reservoir. Another plan is a foot path along the south side of the north Navy ditch that will lead to the river and follow the river south and connect to the Loyola Campus path.

On the west side of the railroad tracks is the bike path in The Glen around Gallery Park also along West Lake to the Old West Gate into the Naval Air Station. When the Village annexes the unincorporated area it will acquire the rights for West Lake Avenue and extend the bike path. It will connect of the West Lake/Lake Avenue section which will go to the Des Plaines River trail. There may not be enough money to create the traditional bike path which is 10 feet wide. It might end up being two five-foot sidewalks on each side of the street.

There is a discord between bike riders related to bike paths. One type of bicyclist will follow the rules of the road and go biking on the road. Another bicyclist prefers having a 10 foot-wide bike path where a family would ride. The plan is for a bike path, not necessarily sidewalk connections. There is an envisioned connection across town between the North Branch Trail, the Des Plaines River Trail, an east/west connection and then a

north/south connection through the Techny Trail. Not all of it will be a truly designated bike path because it will not be 10 feet wide.

Commissioner Blomquist mentioned concerns about signage for the public's safety in a path layout that includes a bike path, sidewalks, and bike lanes. Mr. Brady will supply Commissioner Blomquist with these answers. Commissioner Blomquist said that sometimes it is easier to get a bike lane (often times just lanes on a street) built than it is to make a bike path (it may involve a bridge, has a wider right-of-way). If there was a bike lane along with on-street parking, there is a conflict of car doors opening and traffic seeing the bike rider, and safety issues for families who ride. Some residents do not necessarily want a bike path going in front of or behind their house. Bike lanes along a street may require less infrastructure and be established faster than a dedicated bike path.

Mr. Brady said he would obtain more information relating to some of the design issues and history related to how bike paths function in the existing right-of-way on the street. There is something called the Five-Village Task Force which is working on ways to figure out a plan to link the villages together through the right-of-way. Wilmette's plan desired to use Glenview Road as a link to the North Branch Trail, which would go all the way to the lake through Wilmette's system. Wilmette has a Bike Task Force but does not have any plans in the works. Skokie has acquired easements along the railroad to allow a connection.

Mr. Brady requested Commissioners to review the information distributed in this meeting's packets (e.g., maps) and see if some of the ideas the Commissioners want are included in this document and to let Mr. Brady know so he can inform the consultant. Maybe a bike lane task force could be formed to discern which is the best route to take to link the natural resources the Village has or have an implementation plan. Chairman Fuller directed Commissioners to contact Mr. Brady directly with their suggestions.

Presentation of Village Tree Ordinance Issues

Mr. Bill Porter, Director of Public Works, began the presentation. Glenview's Tree Ordinance was passed in late 2000. The ordinance is a balancing between community benefits and private property owners and their rights to develop and enjoy their own property as they see fit. The original ordinance stated the Village Manager would hear the appeal if a tree cutting permit is denied. Now the NRC will hear the appeal. The purpose of this presentation is to give the NRC an overview of the ordinance.

Mr. Dan Roseman said that in 2002 there were 176 permit applications filed. In 2003 there were 365 permit applications filed. Approximately 5%-10% of the applications were denied. The criteria for tree removal are in the Tree Standards Manual. The Willow Inn on Wagner restaurant is a current project the department is working on. The restaurant was able to save all of the healthy honey locust trees. Other trees that were not saved were

buckthorn, mulberry, and old unhealthy willow trees. The arbor vitae will be removed and replaced. If a resident is putting an addition onto their home, even if they are not taking down a tree on their property, there still may be a departmental issue of utilities such as sewer or water.

Commissioner Freeman said that Haverford Development cut down many old oak trees and wondered why that was allowed. Mr. Roseman replied the permit was reviewed and accepted. Mr. Porter explained that if a road or a site plan is approved, certain trees will come down. He said he would examine that situation and report back to the Natural Resources Commission. Chairman Fuller said it would be interesting for the NRC to learn how that particular situation worked and why the tree ordinance did not apply. Mr. Roseman said a lot of trees have been saved. If the ordinance was not followed, a violation will be issued. The violator will have to replace the tree or have a court date before a judge. Mr. Porter said people in violation of the ordinance are fined. Mr. Roseman said the high amount of the fee encourages developers to work around the tree. For instance, if only one-half the number of trees cut can be replaced on the planable area of the property, the other half of the funds can be put into the Village Parkway Fund which would allow trees to be planted up and down that street. Buckthorns are listed on the ordinance as nuisance trees and can be taken down without a permit.

Mr. Roseman said homeowners should not over plant a piece of land so after replacement trees are planted on their property, money for additional trees would be directed toward planting parkway trees. The number of tree removal permits more than doubled between 2002 – 2003. Mr. Roseman will review those permits and differentiate between tree removals only versus tree removal in conjunction with a building permit and send it to the NRC.

Mr. Porter said last year 400-500 elm trees on public and private property were tagged for removal because of Dutch elm disease. On public property, infected trees will be tagged, and two weeks later schedule its removal on a priority basis. On private property, the resident would receive a letter which explains a 30-day notice removal. Sometime thereafter, a follow-up inspection would occur, and a non-compliant resident would receive a 15-day notice. If the tree is still not removed, the ordinance allows the Village to take proposals from private tree companies and have it removed, and then lien the property.

Mr. Roseman has met with the Cooperative Extension Service regarding gypsy moths and has information on the moths at the Public Works Service Center if the public is interested. Last fall some information on gypsy moths was included in the Village newsletter. No spraying for them has been scheduled this year. The Illinois Department of Agriculture is putting out traps to monitor for the presence and numbers of gypsy moths.

The Natural Resources Commission is involved in the tree ordinance only in the case where someone has applied for a permit, was denied, and wish to appeal. In the future Mr. Roseman will send appeal information to Ms. Flakne. Mr. Roseman will include the briefing summary for each case. Urban Forest Management has been of great help. A large portion of Mr. Roseman's job is teaching homeowners and contractors how to fill out the tree preservation form.

Chairman Fuller asked about fencing requirements to protect trees from, for example, earth-moving equipment. There is a \$500 fine after the second warning. There are Night Inspectors who canvass construction jobs.

Report on River Day, May 8, 2004

Chairman Fuller said Friends of the Chicago River sponsors a River Clean-Up Day up and down the Chicago River, north and south. One of the sites is the Techny Basin area, south of Willow Road. Chairman Fuller said about 50 people came to help. Eighty-seven bags of trash were collected. GVTV covered the event this year. Mr. Porter's Public Works workers hauled away the trash away on the following Monday. Chairman Fuller will e-mail more information to Mr. Otto who will include those statistics in the GVTV piece.

Commissioner Freeman wished more people had volunteered. She will begin developing a relationship with the Target[®] Volunteer Coordinator in order to elicit a better volunteer response from the retailer. Commissioner Blomquist suggested contacting other area retailers for volunteers six months in advance. To attract more helpers next year, it would be wise to place signs around the basin announcing the upcoming event. There is an opportunity to make this a community event and focus more on the users of the basin and the Heatherfield complex. Perhaps Village President Larry Carlson will talk to Village staff about what more can be done, like trying to convince the shopping center owner to put the trash receptacles around the basin and empty them too.

Village Covenants

Mr. Peter Saolomon addressed the Commission in order to present a problem which has been unresolved for six years. He is unable to persuade his condominium association to complete what its conservation easement stipulates should be executed. (The Village had accepted this conservation easement from the townhouse developer, James.) Mr. Saolomon has appealed to the Village to enforce the condominium association to follow through with its obligations. To date, there has been no satisfactory result for his efforts.

Chairman Fuller suggested that rather than become involved in an individual case, it would be more appropriate for the Commission to review Village policies on conservation easements and their contents with the idea of making a recommendation to the Village Board and the Plan Commission offering some insight. He further commented that since

the Commission needs to work based on its priorities it probably won't focus on easements for some time, most likely not until next year. Mr. Saolomon will send Ms. Flakne a photocopy of his condominium's covenants.

Educational Programs

Commissioner Freeman wondered what kind of educational programs the NRC wants to video tape for GVTV. She suggested showing slides from the Chicago Wilderness program and material about the recycling center. Mr. Otto said that bringing attention to issues in a public way may motivate people to be better citizens. Commissioner Blomquist suggested inviting regional speakers who have an expertise in some of the issues the Commission is going to be facing. Mr. Otto said when televising a meeting, it is best to have footage mixed with cut-a-ways to illustrate commentary. Chairman Fuller suggested a segment on speakers who have insight into what other municipalities are doing and what Glenview could do. Speakers would give a presentation followed by relevant material. Perhaps GVTV could film ideas around the West Fork: wildlife, flowers, and people enjoying it.

Mr. Otto requested an itinerary and printed material in advance so he can discern the idea of the piece and only shoot relevant aspects. Commissioner Blomquist said he will make a list of topics that could be covered in two or three minute public service announcements (PSA). Commissioner Freeman suggested using GVTV to inform Glenview residents there is a Natural Resources Commission and explain its mission, goal, and priorities. She also suggested Commissioners send her an e-mail requesting a particular event or speaker be filmed which could prove to be of interest to the NRC or community. Chairman Fuller suggested PSA segments on: nuisance plants (such as buckthorn or garlic mustard), as well as gypsy moths; NRC's plan for the West Fork; and opportunities for volunteering.

Adjournment

Commissioner Freeman moved to adjourn. Commissioner Blomquist seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott
Recording Secretary