

**MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
June 8, 2004**

Call to Order by the Chairman

The June 8, 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: Ms. Nancy Halliday, naturalist
Mr. Peter Saolomon

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fuller asked for corrections or comments to the May 11, 2004 minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

- Page four, second paragraph, first sentence should read “Commissioner Blomquist mentioned concerns about signage for the public’s safety in a path layout that includes a bike path, sidewalks, and bike lanes.”
- Page four, second paragraph, add this sentence at the end “Bike lanes along a street may require less infrastructure and be established faster than a dedicated bike path.”
- Page five, second paragraph, first sentence should read “Haverford Development”

Commissioner Blomquist moved to approve the May 11, 2004 minutes. Commissioner Glennemeier seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried.

General Communications

None.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

Old Business

Status Report for the West Fork Assessment Project

Ms. Flakne distributed to Commissioners a photocopy of the finalized contract with Applied Ecological Services (AES) dated May 17, 2004. Chairman Fuller reported the Kick-Off Meeting was held earlier in the day with the consultant, Ms. Kara Miller. Chairman Fuller and Ms. Flakne went over the goals of the contract, reviewed an aerial map of the Techny River, and then drove to the site with Ms. Miller. AES will be conducting field visits during the next couple of months, and also assembling information. Then they will be preparing an interim report which will be ready by September or October, 2004. Concurrently with the fieldwork, AES will also be gathering historical documentation. The first field visit will be held within the next few weeks (possibly June 21-25). Ms. Flakne will inform Commissioners when the date is confirmed.

New Business

Discussion of West Fork Plan

Chairman Fuller is optimistic the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) will get much information from the consultants to include in the West Fork Plan. The consultants will give the NRC factual material and the NRC will develop this data into a plan that reads well and explains its implementation. It would be helpful if the Commission can put together an outline and find available resources to hire a technical writer to put the documentation into a final form, as well as decide what sort of maps should be included, then have it published. The consultant's product may not be delivered until January 2005. By next Spring, Chairman Fuller hopes to have a working document. The Commission's budget for the new year should include a request for resources for editing and publishing the report. This report will show the Village Board, and the public, what the Commission has been working on. The Commission needs to determine how it can be put in a web format and whether GVTV coverage is appropriate.

Chairman Fuller distributed to Commissioners a document titled "Outline for the West Fork Natural Resource Plan" and asked for their feedback. What pieces of this could be culled for workshops, GVTV coverage, or pamphlets? Commissioner Blomquist suggested making the plan as adaptive as possible for all of the different audiences: Village Board, community groups, schools. Chairman Fuller said some information could be placed in appendices and referred to another document for further information.

Chairman Fuller asked “What is the big picture the Commission wants to communicate?”

- nature persists in Glenview
- West Fork River is a corridor
- West Fork River is a little river that Glenview has a big impact on

Commissioner Glennemeier wondered how to get the information to the public and mentioned the Glenview Public Library as one possibility. There are some residents who would be eager for information on Glenview’s natural resources and many residents who are not even aware of its presence. Chairman Fuller mentioned interested groups would be garden clubs and associations along the river. Friends of the Chicago River may have a database of residents’ addresses adjacent to the river. This group of residents could be invited to a workshop. Residents might form an association or a Glenview chapter of The Wild Ones, or a neighborhood organization to get together and talk about planting in their backyards. Commissioner Blomquist said the NRC can highlight the impact of Glenview’s populace on the river, as well as the river’s potential for Glenview. Some residents may not know the asset we have and are unaware of what could be done to help it become even better.

Topics for Public Service Announcement’s, Pamphlets or Programs

Commissioner Blomquist distributed to Commissioners a draft list of subjects the NRC can address. Commissioner Glennemeier suggested adding air and noise pollution to the list. Chairman Fuller requested Commissioners review this document and return with comments.

Chairman Fuller asked, “How do we tell the story?” The Biodiversity Atlas is a good source for the region. Perhaps a booklet entitled Natural Wonders of Glenview could be available in public places. The booklet should mention Glenview’s jewels such as The Grove, The West Fork, the forest preserves, and wildlife viewing sites of great blue herons, great egrets, snipes, and listening to frogs in April. Pictures and maps would be helpful. Ms. Halliday suggested interpretive signs. The Commission should request resources in next year’s budget for the West Fork Plan, and printed information pieces or on video. What is the Commission’s outreach strategy? Commissioner Glennemeier asked what goal can be measured. She suggested a PSA on the tree ordinance. Chairman Fuller suggested informative workshops. Commissioner Blomquist said monitoring the number of people who help at River Clean Up Day or joining the prairie walk, fostering the formation of a river homeowners group.

Commissioner Glennemeier suggested a presentation on choosing and planting trees to attract nesting or migrating birds. Commissioner Freeman visited the Magic Hedge in Chicago and found it is a terrific example of plantings that attract birds. Commissioner Blomquist said the City of Chicago has produced easily-readable pamphlets which suggest

planting certain trees that are beneficial to wildlife and promote diversity in street and parkway trees. Chairman Fuller said that if people were informed, they might turn to the internet and sources such as Possibility Place for sources of less well known native plant species. Commissioner Blomquist said Menards® has sold swamp white oak trees for fifty dollars. In Skokie, parkway trees offered to schools are all of native varieties, such as quercus bicolor. Chairman Fuller will write a letter asking clarification of the Village's policy for choosing trees.

Presentations

Commissioner Glennemeier recommended a presentation from Friends of the Chicago River, at the August 2004 meeting. They could make suggestions on how to relay people's effect on the river. The meeting may be videotaped for use at a later time.

Commissioner Freeman suggested a presentation about recycling either from the Village or SWANK.

Chairman Fuller suggested a presentation about the Tyner Interpretive Center on the prairie. Ms. Flakne will speak to Ms. Amy Ahner about scheduling a speaker. It may be video taped by GVTV. Commissioner Freeman requires advance notice for GVTV coverage in order to secure equipment. It may be that there will be a public presentation which will meet the Commission's needs, but if not, a presentation for the Commission will be requested.

Sleepy Hollow Park

Commissioner Glennemeier noted that Sleepy Hollow Park had unusual potential as a natural area with easily pedestrian access. She asked if there was interest in volunteer restoration activity in the Park. Ms. Halliday would be willing work with others. Ms. Flakne reminded the Commissioners that it is owned and managed by the Park District. Chairman Fuller suggested calling Mr. Gullen.

Tree Ordinance

Commissioner Glennemeier remained unclear as to the goal of the tree ordinance and wondered what is the Commission's role. Chairman Fuller explained the intent of the ordinance was to slow down the high numbers of tree removals. Commissioner Glennemeier asked if the ordinance should "have more teeth." It was explained at the last NRC meeting that ninety percent of tree-cutting permits are granted, which seems too permissive.

Chairman Fuller noted that at NRC's May meeting, Mr. Bill Porter, Director of Public Works, was going to examine the Haverford Development site and report back to the NRC

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as to why many old oak trees were allowed to be cut down. Mr. Dan Roseman was to report back to the Commission as to why the number of tree removal permits more than doubled between 2002 – 2003 and differentiate between tree removals only versus tree removal in conjunction with a building permit. Commissioner Blomquist wondered why trees in the southeastern corner of Gallery Park are enclosed within the builder's construction fence and why they are not designated for protection by fencing either around their trunk nor the root area. Chairman Fuller will compose a letter to the Development Department asking these questions. One of Glenview's important natural resources is its trees, which should be protected by the tree ordinance.

In response to concerns expressed by Mr. Peter Saolomon, Chairman Fuller said the NRC will learn more about conservation easements and the Village's use of them in protecting nature in Glenview at a later date.

Lot 16

Commissioner Freeman wondered if Lot 16 could be re-named and have a steward assigned to it. Commissioner Blomquist suggested having a contest for school children to come up with a name for the area. Commissioner Freeman recently saw some meadowlarks there. Chairman Fuller said a definitive plan for Lot 16 has not yet been drawn up. Ms. Flakne said a wooden split-rail fence will soon be placed around it. Commissioner Blomquist said this area could be used as a prototype for what could be done elsewhere in the Village. Chairman Fuller said the eventual plan for Lot 16 should draw attention to it. There is a possibility of riverbank mitigation. This land has potential to be naturalized along the shore. Should some of the fill be removed?

Chairman Fuller said the Village is going to acquire the Baxter piece. The Village has some wetland mitigation requirements to satisfy for The Glen, which could involve restoration of the riverbanks and creation of wetland on the property.

Commissioner Blomquist recently read in a newspaper article that in Aurora, Illinois a developer got a great deal of money put into an eighty-acre wetland next door to an outlet mall. Chairman Fuller said Glenview is doing a good job too: Lot 16 was purchased; it accepted ownership of the Techny Basin; and has a good prairie and a large park.

July, 2004 Meeting

Commissioner Blomquist moved to not have a July 2004 meeting for the Natural Resources Commission. Commissioner Glennemeier seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried.

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Chairman Fuller suggested the third Monday of the month be designated as the regular meeting date for the Natural Resources Commission. The next meeting date will be Monday, August 16, 2004.

Adjournment

Commissioner Blomquist moved to adjourn. Commissioner Glennemeier seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott
Recording Secretary