

**MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
August 16, 2004**

Call to Order by the Chairman

The August 16, 2004, meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairman Fuller at 7:00 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, Glennemeier, Chairman Fuller, and Ms. Robyn Flakne, Nat. Res. Manager and Staff Liaison

ABSENT: Commissioner Freeman

GUESTS: Mr. John Quail, Friends of the Chicago River
Ms. Nancy Halliday, retired naturalist

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fuller asked for corrections or comments to the June 8, 2004 minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Page four, first paragraph, fifth line, change to "In Skokie, parkway trees offered to schools are all of native varieties ...".

Page four, first paragraph, strike the last sentence.

Commissioner Glennemeier moved to approve the June 8, 2004 minutes. Commissioner Blomquist seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried. Commissioner Beck abstained from voting because she did not attend the June 8 meeting.

General Communications

Chairman Fuller confirmed that the Commission will continue to meet on the third Monday of each month. Commissioners agreed that September 20, 2004 is satisfactory.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

Old Business

Status Report for West Fork Assessment Project

Chairman Fuller, Ms. Flakne, and others enjoyed a day alternately paddling and walking on the West Fork in canoes. Ms. Flakne presented some photographs taken that day. Ms. Flakne said that Ms. Kara Miller called and left a message saying that a draft report will be given to the Commission on schedule in September. Chairman Fuller said the amount of debris along the river is increasing. It is important to work with stream bank owners and trying to build interest and education and show what people can do to ensure the health of the water.

Status Reports on Chairman Fuller's Discussion with Development Department

Chairman Fuller had written as requested by the Commissioners questioning why some of the trees were taken down at Haverford development. He read aloud a portion of the response letter written by Ms. Mary Bak which included the plan documents and Minutes of the Plan Commission. All documents are available for Commissioner viewing.

Chairman Fuller will speak further with Ms. Bak and write to the Plan Commission to make clear the availability of the NRC to provide review and comment on the intention of the Natural Resources Commission. Commissioner Beck suggested the letter include thanking the Plan Commission for being concerned with issues the NRC cares about. Commissioner Glennemeir wondered if the NRC can make suggestions about the type of trees being planted.

Status Report on Air Station Prairie Interpretive Center

Ms. Flakne said the Village will present the plans for the Interpretive Center to the Environmental Review Commission on Thursday, September 2, 2004, at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Board Room. Chairman Fuller suggested Commissioners attend, if possible.

Ms. Flakne is hopeful a Clean Water Act, Section 319 grant will be accepted. Commissioner Beck explained this Act does not give anyone the authority to control non-point source pollution. It is the main source of funding for water shed planning.

Prioritization of Public Outreach Items for Commission

Commissioner Glennemeir thought Commissioner Blomquist's list was thorough. She would like to add items under Bicycle and Alternative Transportation in Glenview:

- Alternatives to driving
- Ideas on how to get around town on bicycle or foot
- Activities for children that don't involve driving
- Description of Glenview's bike routes

Commissioner Glennemeir suggested citing the Chicago Wilderness Migrant Bird Habitat Study which recommends the best and worst trees for foraging migrant birds, under the Trees heading.

Under Non-Point Source Pollution, add lower-impact lawn care. Under Special Topics, highlight Farmer's Market.

Commissioner Blomquist suggested prioritizing the public outreach items:

- Chairman Fuller said during the next year, the Commission should look at the consultant's report on the West Fork, which will describe what the West Fork is and how people in Glenview can appreciate and maintain it. The Commission will take this product and make it into a substantial report to the community.

- Commissioner Blomquist suggested visuals of wildlife sites, river clean-up day.

- Chairman Fuller suggested writing an information piece and posting it on the web site and a notice in the newsletter about appreciating and experiencing nature in Glenview.

- The Techny trail along the Navy ditch would be a good part to publicize when it is available.

- Maybe a piece called "Have you visited the Techny Basin?"

Commissioner Beck suggested planning a campaign and mentioning it in the Park District brochure. Perhaps making Arbor Day really special day in Glenview and distributing saplings. Commissioner Blomquist had seen a brochure about the benefits of trees, such as: shade for cooling of homes, wind block, energy savings, and esthetics.

Commissioner Beck recently attended a national conference entitled Water Shed 2004 and received a 20-minute video produced by both the EPA and the Weather Channel. It discusses what a water shed is, what run-off is, etc. and would like to have it shown on GVTV. Commissioner Beck will bring this video to the next NRC meeting so Commissioners will have a chance to view it. Perhaps NIPC has information to share with the Glenview community. World Water Monitoring Day is Saturday, October 28, 2004. Kraft may be a sponsor, and schools might too.

There are two ways to monitor a stream: 1) fill a test tube and send it to a lab; 2) work with flora and fauna and look at what is in the stream. Commissioner Beck will create a timeline draft of priorities for the Natural Resources Commission. Commissioner Glennemeir will create a list of slogans or mottos to convey what the NRC is trying to accomplish. Commissioner Blomquist will gather information on trees.

Identification of Potential Future Guest Presenters

Ms. Flakne will contact the consultants to determine if they can make a presentation to the Commission at the October, 2004 meeting. Professor Paul Hayes, head of Loyola's Science Department, would be an interesting and informative speaker for November. Chairman Fuller suggested Wild Ones for natural landscaping. It would be beneficial to have a local chapter. Commissioner Blomquist will contact Wild Ones and see if they have a speaker available in December. Commissioner Beck suggested author Libby Hill, who could give a presentation to the Commission and later a talk to the community, coordinated with the library. Ms. Halliday is a friend of Ms. Hill's and volunteered to contact her.

Sleepy Hollow

Commissioner Glennemeir spoke with Mr. Fred Gullen about whether the Commission might assist in initiating a stewardship/restoration at Sleepy Hollow Park. Mr. Gullen thought that would be a great idea and is willing to discuss getting the plan initiated. Commissioner Glennemeir will contact Mr. Gullen and inquire whether he is available for the October NRC meeting.

Commission Budget for 2005

Chairman Fuller would like to allocate some of the January 1 – December 31, 2005 budget to take the consultants' West Fork report and make it into a plan that the Commission would create. A layout would be outsourced. It should be a short, concise document. We will confer with Ms. Janet Spector-Bishop, Communications Director, to make sure the document is readable. It would have a limited number of copies printed and also available on the web page and a copy at the library. A note could be in the Village newsletter stating a copy would be available upon request or a PowerPoint presentation could be created.

Commissioner Beck wondered whether the report is to be a vision and implementation of what a stream bank can be. Perhaps CD's can be duplicated and distributed to riverbank residents. Having good visuals (pictures and maps) and connecting to people that is important. Chairman Fuller envisions the document that tells the story, potential, and the kinds of things that need to happen. Commissioner Glennemeir mentioned having a presentation at the library. Chairman Fuller suggested each member of the Commission could speak on a different topic.

Chairman Fuller thought \$12,700 would cover the production of the document. Commissioner Glennemeier said the Habitat Herald costs about \$1,200 for printing of 2,000 copies of 12 black-and-white pages. Commissioner Beck suggested a NRC budget of \$20,000 which includes layout and printing of the brochure, Arbor Day festivities, pamphlets and mailings.

Ms. Flakne will find out how many river residents there are in Glenview.

New Business

Friends of the Chicago River Presentation

Mr. John Quail gave a presentation to the Natural Resources Commission. Friends of the Chicago River (FCR) found that reaching out to a wide number of people via mailings is not economical, especially for a non-profit organization. A lot of municipalities are sending out information in water bills. It is a good way to get a lot of information about storm-water management and landscape management. It helps to fulfill some of the Village's National Pollution and Discharge Elimination System permit requirements that just started recently.

Friends of the Chicago River have a policy of never turning down a speaking engagement. They talk to libraries and garden, women's, ecology and Sierra clubs. Presentations consist of the history of the river, have outreach strategies, and talk about some of the projects FCR has done. A presentation will be tailored to interests of the group.

Chicago River Day is a clean-up day along the river. It has 56 sites this year and over 3,000 volunteers. It started about 12 years ago with about 25-30 volunteers. The key to a lot of FCR projects is "Internal Champions" which means having a local person on site to monitor the action. Chairman Fuller has been the Site Captain of the Techny Basin. Every site has a captain who is responsible for volunteers for that day, e.g., handing out gloves, collecting garbage bags at the end of the day.

The final big event FCR has is the Flat Water Classic Canoe Race. It took place on August 8 this year with 800 participants. Getting in a boat and going on the river is the best way to make a connection with the river. Once the connection is made, the value of that resource is increased.

Water Professionals are non-profit employees, municipal employees, employees of government agencies, educators, and volunteers. FCR recently sponsored a Water Professionals conference through Chicago Wilderness at the Shedd Aquarium and Field Museum. Chicago Wilderness is a good organization which allows a group to get the word out. The Chicago Wilderness publicized the FCR conference on their web site and their e-mail list. The conference was sold-out.

When participating or attending conferences, we meet other professionals and network which raises the profiles of one's projects, especially in an urban area. People don't realize what qualities the Chicago River and the Chicago River Watershed have to offer.

Friends of the Chicago River focuses on its being an expert in the area. We submit articles to the Chicago Wilderness Journal and Chicago Wilderness Magazine. Journalists will call

FCR to ask for comments on an upcoming article. It helps develop relationships with the media.

There is a program called the Chicago River Schools Network, which has been going on for 8-9 years. There are 289 teachers at 123 schools for Kindergarten through grade 12. There are curriculums for all the grades. This network inspires action within the community. The program is designed so that FCR staff will educate a teacher on a curriculum that Friends has developed such as water-quality testing and how to instruct children to test water quality--action projects the kids can do. Over time, teachers will develop a curriculum on their own.

Deerfield High School has restored the entire section of the Middle Fork, which runs through their property. The students performed all of the digging and planting. The school is considering building a greenhouse on their campus to propagate their wetland species. A school does not need to be situated on the river in order to participate.

Loyola Academy bought the Lutter landfill in Glenview and asked FCR for help in an ecologically friendly manner. They will restore some wetlands and restoring a stream bank.

FCR has started to focus on riparian residents. The people who live along the river banks are the most important people to impact. A consultant was hired to develop an address list which shows all the river-side parcels. (The Glenview portion of this list was given to Ms. Flakne.) Three postcards were developed: 1) habitat of the river; 2) introducing people to the river; and 3) recreational opportunities and access on the river. A follow-up letter will be sent. Every spring and fall FCR will go back to those communities and have a brainstorming session.

In spring FCR had a project called the Riparian Residents Education Program which involves resident groups who live along the river and doing action projects with them. Friends developed a site-specific educational handbook of about twenty pages, tailored to the Birch Lake Homeowners Association. The goal of this project is to show people how to do projects and hopefully translate the ideas to their own backyard. It's interesting to work with homeowners because of many differing opinions.

If you experience the river (planting, river rescue, canoeing), it increases the value placed on the river. Flooding makes people aware of what happens when storm water is mismanaged. Mass media is very good at disseminating your message; however, it rarely leads to an action project. We try to get media to cover our events. It is very difficult to change homeowners and landscapers behaviors. We are studying how to communicate with landscapers in order to promote change.

The North Branch Planning Committee and the North Branch Water Shed Project have a block grant through the I.E.P.A., Section 319, will pay for a little bit of in-stream habitat. FCR has paid for some pool and ripple projects. The difficulty is getting landowners convinced that this is a worthwhile activity. Chairman Fuller said the NRC needs to devise a good plan for in-stream habitat within the Techny section. Some possibilities are: no trees; and creating more mudflats.

Mr. Quail said there has not been a lot of evaluation of long-term projects because it would require funding. FCR tries to work with a large group of knowledgeable consultants. Friends has a Technical Advisors Committee which helps determine what is best for the site. So many of the projects that FCR does are essentially pilot projects and demonstration projects. There is a value just to getting them in to see what works and what doesn't in the watershed.

Loyola Academy called Friends of the Chicago River for help with their wetlands and used some of Friends' technical advisors to come up with ideas. Friends walked the site with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Lake County Storm Water, and some consultants then provided Loyola with a list of consultants and two professors from DePaul, Jim Montgomery and Marshall Eams, to help Loyola work the wetland dynamics that they want to restore. Loyola hired Karen Kades, a consultant, for help on the stream bank restoration. Paul Hayes is the head of Loyola's Science Department and would be a good person to speak with—a river champion.

A key aspect of the Loyola site is it ties in to that Chestnut to Willow Road. Loyola Academy is willing to take direction from the Village as far as what kind of treatments they should use and management techniques. It would be wise to manage that wide area as one large parcel—to manage Loyola with the Techny Basin and Lot 16 and the up-stream properties.

Mr. Quail is unaware of any projects in Northbrook south of their downtown, through the Techny area. The Northbrook downtown project was initiated in 1997 or 1998 and finished in 2002. Landscape Resources was used for the stream bank project. Friends put Northbrook in contact with the University of Illinois and developed a pool and riffle structure to be used on low gradient streams.

In Northbrook there was almost a wall of buckthorn up and down both sides of the stream. People were initially worried about children's safety if the buckthorn was removed.

The Kraft project never got off the ground. FCR's last contact with them was 18 months ago. The cost to repair about 3,000 feet of stream bank was about \$2 million. Kraft didn't commit to the project. Commissioner Beck asked if the project could be resuscitated. Mr.

Minutes – Natural Resources Commission
August 16, 2004
Page Eight

Quail said FCR would be interested in revisiting the project if there is landowner interest. If the west stream bank was not thinned out, there wouldn't be enough sunlight for the east stream bank for plant growth. It would require Kraft to cut trees. Commissioner Blomquist said this plan could be translated along other neighborhoods along the river.

Chairman Fuller suggested organizing an effort. Start by finding two adjacent landowners that would be willing to work with Friends for demonstrations and to look at Riverside Park, in "The Circles" area of Glenview (or some other publicly owned piece of land) and see what the Village and Park District can put together to possibly reshape the bank. Mr. Quail said Friends has "319" grant funding for bank stabilization.

Commissioner Beck said every spring, Racine County mails a list to residents which offers native landscaping materials and sapling trees at wholesale prices. This idea helps take people to the next step.

Friends of the Chicago River has put together a booklet for pilot projects that could be sent electronically to Ms. Flakne. Lake County Storm Water has done a good job with materials for stream banks which may be on their website.

Commissioner Beck moved to adjourn. Commissioner Blomquist seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott
Recording Secretary