

**MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
March 30, 2004**

Call to Order by the Chairman

The March 30, 2004, meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairman Fuller at 7:13 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

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fuller asked for corrections or comments to the February 24, 2004 minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

- Page two, third paragraph, first sentence should read “Environmental Review Commission”.
- Page two, third paragraph, second sentence should read “...and duties for each Commission are complimentary.”
- Page three, fourth paragraph, second sentence should read “...ensure protection of...”
- Page four, third paragraph, first sentence should read “...3) the West Fork runs through the middle of the Village, including the downtown and does not include forest preserves but does own some Village and Park District owned property, together with a hodge-podge of ownerships and history.”
- Page five, sixth paragraph, first sentence “basin” should read “base”.
- Page five, eighth paragraph, first sentence should read “Commissioner Freeman suggested looking at the Glenview Farmer’s Market.”

Commissioner Blomquist moved to approve the February 24, 2004 minutes as amended. Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried.

General Communications

None.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

Old Business

Consider for Adoption Revised Vision, Mission and Objectives of the Commission

Chairman Fuller reviewed Commissioner Beck's suggestions submitted at the February 24, 2004 meeting, and felt the Vision Statement be changed to show succinct highlighted statements followed by more elaboration remarks.

Under "Vision" Commissioner Blomquist suggested:

Our vision is: Nature in Glenview is healthy, diverse, and abundant. Glenview has many natural resources. These resources require management and restoration to ensure their health, diversity and future. Village residents should enjoy them and take actions needed to protect and restore them.

Under "Mission" Commissioner Blomquist suggested:

- Enhance the interest and knowledge of Glenview residents with respect to nature that surrounds them within the Village.
- Identify and promote actions needed to protect and restore the remnants of our rich natural heritage.
- Partner with the Park District, local schools, Forest Preserves, and other local organizations to promote natural resource education, management and protection.
- Serve as a forum where ideas and issues related to natural resources in the Village of Glenview can be discussed.

Under "Objectives" Commissioner Beck suggested:

Paragraph four should read "*Review and comment on short term operational plans for specific natural resource areas or assets identified in strategic plans.*"

Chairman Fuller said there are going to be strategic plans for the three Water Sheds in town. There is going to be an Operational Plan for Lake Glenview, the Prairie, and Techny

Basin. The NRC has a hand in initiating the Strategic Plans (for larger areas) and making sure they happen, then refer them to the Village Board for their endorsement. The Operational Plans (for smaller areas) are staff documents, which the NRC is asking to see and comment on; learn what the plans are for the lake and prairie.

Chairman Fuller suggested writing an objective to address environmental quality items. Commissioner Freeman reiterated her previous concern about recycling—influencing the Village government to purchase hybrid cars. Chairman Fuller suggested: *Advise the Village Board of Trustees and the Plan Commission* on matters of environmental quality and quality of life.

Review Prioritization of Tasks for 2004

Chairman Fuller suggested adding as the third item “Develop a draft strategic natural resource plan for the West Fork.”

Commissioner Beck said the Comprehensive Plan did not address natural resources and Water Sheds, so the NRC should address these issues. Chairman Fuller hopes to have a draft Strategic Natural Resources Plan for the West Fork by December 2, 2004.

Commissioner Beck made a motion to adopt the Vision Mission Objectives and Tasks for 2004 as modified. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried.

Progress report for RFR for the Assessment Report for the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River

Ms. Flakne said the Request for Proposals (RFP) were supposed to be returned to the Commission by March 29, 2004. One of the three recipients requested a time extension so an extra week was granted to all. When the proposals are received, Commissioners will receive a photocopy of each so action may be taken at the next NRC meeting which will be April 29, 2004 and 7:00 p.m.

Progress Report for Finding a Student Member of Commission

Ms. Flakne contacted Mr. Warren Bjork at Glenbrook South High School. Mr. Bjork suggested alerting interested students who are currently Sophomores. The position would be an academic-year appointment. Mr. Bjork will confer with a couple of other teachers to refine the selection process and inform them of the Commission’s intention, then contact Ms. Flakne. He suggested including a token scholarship, perhaps \$250-\$500 as an incentive. The student may have a directed study, or a more formal project like a report. Also, Mr. Bjork asked how the Commission could make this a rewarding experience for the student.

Commissioner Beck said if the Commission pays a stipend, a final project should be received. Perhaps the school could choose the student and offer the student extra credit; that way the reward comes from the school. Chairman Fuller thought the Village Board should be consulted if a monetary reward is involved. Commissioner Freeman is not in favor of offering a scholarship--there are plenty of motivated students who want to make a difference. Earning a notation on their resume is enough reward. Chairman Fuller suggested initial interviews make no reference to monetary gain.

Confirm Regular Meeting Dates

The Natural Resources Commission was unable to set regular meeting dates.

New Business

Chairman Fuller announced The Friends of the Chicago River has scheduled a clean-up on Saturday, May 8 (with a rain date of Sunday, May 9). Commissioner Freeman offered to distribute fliers.

Chairman Fuller explained the tree ordinance was established from two directions: 1) the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) inherited the role of the Forestry Commission, which was focused on street trees; and 2) there is a tree protection ordinance created largely because of teardowns, which impact neighborhoods. The ordinance is structured to allow time for a reasonable case to be made for the necessity of chopping down a mature tree. The tree must be replaced on a diameter-inch basis and on a square-inch basis from the cross section of the tree. If the ordinance is not followed, a fine will be imposed on a square-inch basis. A Village staff member administers the ordinance, but the appeal goes before NRC. It is advisable to have the relevant Village staff member attend one of NRC's meetings where we could discuss the ordinance. Ms. Flakne was directed to send a copy of the tree ordinance to NRC Commissioners.

Chairman Fuller would like the Commission to focus on the West Fork plan and present it to the Village Board, while allowing the Commission to address other subjects as they arise.

Commissioner Blomquist commented on the need for bicycle paths which would allow access through and across town, including a path that would extend through the middle of the Village, noting that bike lanes are not very wide. Commissioner Beck suggested informing our Congressman that bike paths are something Glenview cares about. Chairman Fuller suggested inviting Jeff Brady to attend a NRC meeting and bring the Commission up-to-date on the Village's bike trails, both in the existing plan and in the impending plan, and seeing them implanted. Chairman Fuller suggested those

Commissioners interested may call Jeff Brady and request to view a copy of the Comprehensive Plan.

Overview of Village of Glenview Natural Areas

Ms. Flakne distributed handouts which included:

- Natural Areas map
- Gallery Park map
- The Prairie reports:
 - Ron Panther's study of insects
 - Tom Anton's survey of Kirkland snakes
 - General funnel inventory
 - 2003 Annual Monitoring Report for Wetland Development
- Conservation Design Forum created Resortoration Management Plan for Air Station Prairie, Volumes I and II
- Lake Glenview and Gallery Park Data:
 - 2003 Annual Monitoring Report for Lake Glenview
 - Vegetation Monitoring Report

Ms. Flakne gave a presentation where maps were displayed and included the following comments:

- Air Station Prairie, south of Willow Road, on the former Navy base; 32 acres
 - has natural remnant prairie vegetation
 - will have pedestrian easement
- Gallery Park has about 35 acres
 - desire to use native vegetation; have seeded some areas up to 3 times
 - desire to create native plant and animal communities from scratch
 - experienced difficulty with weed species
 - assisted by Ecological Restoration Interns targeting invasive species
- Lake Glenview
 - 45 acre lake, storm water detention for the majority of Navy base
 - trying to naturalize shoreline and create habitat for plants and animals
 - shoreline is developing nicely
 - outlet for Lake Glenview is through North Navy Ditch
 - cleared North Navy Ditch of buckthorn and box elders
 - seeded some woodland species
 - will have a walking path joining a path with Loyola
- Techny Basin (55 acres, including slopes and floor) Lot 16 (10 acres)
 - open space connection for paths and recreation
 - has meadow lark and sharp-tailed sparrow

Commissioner Blomquist said that if the top slopes are doing well perhaps more resources should be devoted to managing and restoring them, especially if the bottom slopes will occasionally be flooded. Ms. Flakne agreed and thought to keep cottonwoods down and throw in seed from time to time. She said the erosion occurring from the northern part of the Park will be repaired. The problem is how to pitch the path back to avoid focusing the water in that area. The Park District is not yet involved in solving the problem. They do, however, need to finish the landscaping there.

- West Fork (picks up south of Willow Road, along Techny, past North Navy Ditch, along Loyola)
 - a pedestrian path will be developed
 - Science teacher at Loyola has students cut buckthorn and treat stumps
 - meadowlarks are nesting on slopes so no mowing till after nesting season

- Adjacent road-side areas which are very visible
 - opportunities to use native vegetation
 - medians have been seeded for three years

- Mussels in Glenview
 - research by Roger Closek from Shedd Aquarium and Kelly Kruger from Friends of the Chicago River
 - discovered a mussel that had heretofore not been found in the Chicago River Water Shed
 - published their results in the *Chicago Wilderness Journal*
 - noted Glenview has a great diversity of mussels at the Techny site

An Interpretive Center is being developed at Air Station Prairie with a trail development. All construction is taking place on fill areas. The Prairie Buffer area will be included in either The Prairie or Industrial Park.

Chairman Fuller noted that in the Gallery Park area, the natural area (red part on the map), seems to include the long oval and cover part of the Park District building, which is incorrect.

Ms. Flakne said what is now being referred to as “the meadow,” (formerly referred to as “the frog pond,”) is basically a big sledding hill. This has been seeded with native species. An area at the base of the hill has been designated for additional detention and will be seasonally wet. It will be an ephemeral ecology pond.

Chairman Fuller said there are five Park District parks on the West Fork (each of which has a little piece of river bank):

- two new parks
- Tall Trees at Lake Avenue
- Sleepy Hollow
- little one off of Waukegan Road at Carriage Hill Condominiums.

Field Visits

Chairman Fuller said it would be a good idea for Commissioners to visit some natural resources areas. Ms. Flakne remarked that volunteers are needed to help control the burning of some of these areas. Chairman Fuller suggested Saturday mornings. The first field visit will be on Saturday, April 10, 2004 meeting at the Willow Road Kohl's Department Store parking lot, west of the River, just west of Waukegan. Ms. Flakne will send a reminder to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Blomquist said Kodak has an American Greenways grant that is available which Ms. Flakne should keep in mind for future years.

Chairman Fuller said the Belltone Company is proposing to develop land in Office Park. There was a question of their development and the planting of trees on it. When this land was sold, some covenants, conditions, and restrictions were negotiated on the surrounding land. One agreement is any buyer would understand that this prairie would be managed with fire. Another agreement is that there had to be building height limitations to the west and restriction on the planting of trees along the Prairie. The grassland birds were intimidated by trees and would push their nesting area back. The trees, therefore would be limited along the Prairie, unless specifically allowed by the Village. Occupants are encouraged, but not required, to plant native trees.

Chairman Fuller requested Ms. Flakne to invite Dan Roseman to attend the next NRC meeting to discuss the tree ordinance.

Adjournment

Commissioner Freeman moved to adjourn. Commissioner Blomquist seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott
Recording Secretary