



MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
March 21, 2011

Call to Order by the Chairman

The March 21, 2011 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairperson Saunders at 7:03 p.m. in the Village Hall Lunch Room.

Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum

Roll call was taken and Chairperson Saunders noted a quorum was present.

PRESENT: Chairperson Saunders; Commissioners Beck, Chiappetta, Ganim and Halliday; and Ms. Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison

ABSENT: Commissioner Blomquist

GUESTS: Mr. Roy Fickel, Public Works Department
Mr. Tom Ganfield, Baxter & Woodman
Ms. Chris McCooey, League of Women Voters

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Saunders asked for corrections or comments to the January 17, 2011 Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Page two, first paragraph, second line should read, "... and Village Manager Todd Hileman. ¶The Commission felt it would be helpful ..."

Page two, third paragraph, seventh line should read, "knows that menu and is also ..."

Commissioner Ganim moved to approve the January 17, 2011 Minutes as corrected. Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0.

General Communications

Chairman Saunders visited the University of Illinois, Chicago campus exhibit of Frank Mayfield's photographs of the Woodworth Prairie. These photographs may be coming to the Glenview Public Library this summer.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

Old Business

West Fork Residential Information/Workshop Planning (Guest Speaker: Thomas Ganfield, Baxter & Woodman, Engineering)

The Natural Resources Commission would like to have an outreach program for residents along the West Fork to discuss opportunities and possibilities for their properties. The NRC hopes an outreach program could be funded by a grant to assist residents with projects along their streambank. The NRC would like to get a sense of how many residents are interested in a program of this nature.

Mr. Ganfield said Baxter & Woodman's first phase would be either to walk or canoe the stream to determine where some of the problem areas are located. The consultants will be looking for erosion problems, invasive plant species, and disconnectivity to the floodplain in order to build on earlier reports. Baxter & Woodman is counting on finding potential areas for restoration. It is important to also identify areas that are functioning well. This exploratory phase will begin in early spring while the trees are still bare.

Phase two entails an outreach program with landowners along the streambank from the north end of Techny Basin to the Village of Golf, as well as the North and South Navy ditches.

Commissioner Beck said about ten years ago the Village had a project with Kraft Foods where Friends of the Chicago River interviewed residents from The Circles area of Glenview and guided them toward native plants, some for wetland areas. There was not, however, an emphasis on long-term maintenance for this particular landscaping. Since that time, there have been two severe floods followed by erosion. Up and down the river, including Tall Trees, there will be similar issues in the future.

In this outreach program, Baxter & Woodman will record comments from residents. What is the public reaction or interest likely to be? Should homeowners associations' be contacted before initial interviews? Baxter & Woodman will examine what the Stormwater Task Force (STF) learned and what actions the Village will take in response to the STF. Where should residents be directed when they have questions? Educating riparian residents to being good stewards is important. This Natural Resources design project is being funded through the CIP.

Baxter & Woodman has no set timetable to speak with residents but they hope to hold workshops where people from different neighborhoods will attend. Perhaps B&W may meet with representatives from the Stormwater Task Force. Mr. Ganfield will examine maps showing different grades of erosion, where native species are, and where invasive and exotic plants are located. There will be site assessments before NRC's May meeting and workshops could be held during the summer.

Mr. John Quail, Friends of the Chicago River, will send Ms. Flakne a basic riparian residence handbook.

Arbor Day, April 29

One requirement to remain a “Tree City” is to have an Arbor Day event. The Village typically celebrates Arbor Day with a school, and this year the school is Glenbrook South High School. Ms. Flakne will coordinate planting a tree with Mr. Jim Glynn from Project Earth club.

The United Nations has declared 2011 as International Year of Forests. Commissioner Chiappetta, as President of Project Earth, believes the Project Earth club would be interested in writing a proclamation about trees and forwarding it to the United Nations. The date of sending the proclamation will be determined at a later time.

Commissioner Beck moved to recommend the Natural Resources Commission sponsor the writing of a proclamation which will be forwarded to the United Nations in honor of International Year of Forests. Commissioner Ganim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0.

The websites for the United Nations and the American Forestry Association have posters, kits, and other materials available for use.

Last fall a Chicago Wilderness Congress was held and presented a very informative project on urban forestry in Elgin.

Emerald Ash Borer Spring Workshops, April 30 and May 10

Ms. Flakne explained the Village has previously sponsored Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) workshops. There is now additional information and residents should be aware of the new treatment options available. Three different chemicals have been approved for EAB treatment, yet there are several different methods of application that may be used. Treatment applications should be made every other year or possibly every three years. Arborists are embracing different chemicals for treatment and have differing opinions as to whether injections should be made in the tree’s root zone, trunk, or to the soil. An affected tree needs to be treated or it will be lost. GVTV will tape the Workshops for broadcasting.

Glenview is part of a study with the Morton Arboretum where some ash trees, 24 inches in diameter and larger, are being treated at different rates of application. In addition, two hundred ash trees are also being treated gratis for five years by a company trying to prove their product is effective against EAB.

Emerald Ash Borer Reforestation Grant

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus awarded and is administering a \$20,000 sub-grant of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds to replace Village ash trees. Replacement options include 28 different species and many of their cultivars.

Spring Tree Planting

Informational hangers were placed on residents' door knobs.

River Day, May 14

Volunteers will be reminded to pull garlic mustard. Reach 1 is the site of Mr. Sulli Gibson's Eagle Scout project to install wetland plants at the bottom of the wetland river areas. Some volunteers will be from REI.

Outreach – Values Project, GPD, Etc.

Chairperson Saunders met with Mr. Steve Swanson, Director of The Grove, Ms. Lorin Ottlinger, Assistant Director of The Grove, and Mr. Bob Quill, Superintendent of Leisure Services at the Glenview Park District, to talk about different initiatives and sharing information with each other. It is important for the Village to share ideas among groups that have similar objectives such as building energy efficiency and a love of nature. There is a movement called No Child Left Inside which promotes getting children outdoors and engaged in activities that promote learning and physical fitness. Character Counts (founded by the Glenview Values Project, a group of community leaders and professionals that encourages involvement in addressing community concerns) seeks to encourage the understanding and practice of character development. Other organizations that may be interested in joining a consortium include Go Green Glenview, the Chamber of Commerce, restoration groups and vegetable gardening groups. Perhaps a forum should be created to organize these groups.

On February 28 there was a meeting of vegetable gardeners. There was a good turnout and it was decided a Glenview gardening blog will be created. Chairperson Saunders noted that when a natural area is restored by removing buckthorn, chemistry of the soil is changed. Seeds which had been dormant may sprout.

Perhaps Ms. Libby Hill, author of "The Chicago River: A Natural and Unnatural History" may be interested to give a talk at the Glenview Public Library.

Review of Local Environmental Commissioners Meeting February 5

Commissioners Beck and Halliday attended the Local Environmental Commissioners meeting on February 5. Commissioner Beck spoke to the group about the opportunity for grants. All Commissioners said they enjoyed the networking aspect promoted by these meetings. The next Local Environmental Commissioners meeting will be held May 28 and Commissioner Ganim will attend.

Review of Wild Things Conference

Chicago Wilderness presented the fourth biennial Wild Things conference which took place at the University of Illinois at Chicago on March 5. This day-long conference brought together the region's experts, professionals, and volunteers interested in nature. Technical presentations and

interactive workshops explored the latest in natural areas conservation, wildlife protection and monitoring, and sustainability. There was special focus on empowering citizen scientists, stewards and advocates with information, networking and ideas.

Among the speakers was Mr. Curt Meine, an Aldo Leopold expert, who helped produce the movie, “*Green Fire*,” which describes the formation of Leopold’s idea, exploring how it changed Leopold and later permeated conservation issues.

New Business

Northeastern Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership Memorandum of Understanding

Ms. Flakne said the Northeastern Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIIPP) was recently formed and is housed at the Chicago Botanic Garden. It is a cooperative which is a regional organization that brings together all interested landowners and the public to coordinate and combine resources, expertise, and activities for more efficient and effective management of invasive plant species across jurisdictional boundaries. Their mission is to prevent and control new plant invasions, control and manage current invasions, support informed management decisions, and raise public awareness concerning the threat posed by invasive plants.

Ms. Cathy McGlynn, Coordinator of NIIPP, has asked that NRC sign the Memorandum of Understanding (included in this month’s meeting packet) which supports NIIPP’s goals.

Commissioner Ganim moved to recommend Chairman Saunders sign on behalf of the Natural Resources Commission and the Village of Glenview the Northeastern Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership Memorandum of Understanding. Commissioner Halliday seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0.

Chairperson Saunders noted that when she, Ms. Flakne, and Ms. McGlynn took a walk it was impressive how well Ms. Flakne knew the land and where invasive species are being battled.

There will not be a Natural Resources Commission meeting in April.

Adjournment

Commissioner Beck moved to adjourn. Commissioner Ganim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott
Recording Secretary