



**MINUTES**  
**GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**November 21, 2011**

**Call to Order by the Chairman**

The November 21, 2011 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairperson Saunders at 7:05 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, Blomquist, Chiappetta, Ganim and Halliday; and Ms. Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison

**GUESTS:** Mr. Jerry Burke, Director of Public Works Department  
Mr. Roy Fickel, Superintendent of Public Works Department  
Mr. Joe Boyle, Glenview Resident  
Ms. Chris McCooey, League of Women Voters  
Ms. Masha Furmanov, Glenview Resident

**Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Saunders asked for corrections or comments to the September 19, 2011 Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Page one, last paragraph, first line should read, "... if the NRC would like to have activities in the river, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is the first contact."

Page two, fourth paragraph, third line should read, "... there seem to be ..."

[Commissioner Halliday arrived]Page five, paragraph two, second line should read, "a Lake County resident outreach program that allows residents to get their property certified ..."

Page five, fourth paragraph, second line should read "... suspended for budgetary reasons."

Commissioner Beck moved to approve the September 19, 2011 Minutes as corrected. Commissioner Blomquist seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0.

**General Communications**

Commissioners should dispose of draft editions of the Natural Resources Commission Minutes once the final Minutes are distributed.

Ms. Meshawn Ayala, Outreach Coordinator for Friends of the Chicago River, sent information for riparian residents to the NRC.

Commissioner Beck will be the Grand Marshall at the next 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Glenview whose theme is America the Beautiful. Items that could be distributed along the parade route:

- Packets of native seeds
- Temporary tattoos of invasive species.

### **Consideration of Cases on the Agenda**

None.

### **New Business**

#### **Noise Pollution**

Ms. Masha Furmanov and her family have been living in the La Fontaine subdivision in Glenview for about five years and has reported that noise from landscaper machinery is getting worse every year. Landscaper equipment, like leaf blowers and lawn mowers, has both noise and air pollution. Ms. Furmanov said that Highland Park, Wilmette, Evanston, and Winnetka have modified their respective ordinances in regard to landscaper-generated noise. Ms. Furmanov suggested alternatives such as rakes and electric equipment plus a change of permissible hours to 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm. A Wilmette resident, after several years, convinced that Village to change its noise ordinance which meant quieter machinery. Wilmette can now issue tickets of \$7,500 to noise violators.

The NRC will:

- Examine the Glenview Village ordinance relating to private landscaping practices.
- Read other Villages' ordinances.
- Find out what is state-of-the-art equipment.
- Determine if there is a way to modify existing equipment.
- Ascertain what is the law and how is it enforced.

Ms. Furmanov will:

- Inquire if neighbors are disturbed by landscapers noise.
- Ask the offending landscapers if there is a muffler on the machinery.
- Contact Development Department Supervisor Mr. Joe Footlik who would handle a noise pollution issue.

Mr. Burke said he would assist Ms. Furmanov in finding the correct person to contact regarding her concerns.

Chairperson Saunders invited Ms. Furmanov to send additional information to the Commission and to attend the next NRC meeting on January 16, 2012.

### **Fred Gullen Retirement**

Commissioners discussed writing a letter to Mr. Fred Gullen upon his retirement showing their appreciation for his professionalism and willingness to take that extra step in getting a job done well. Commissioner Blomquist said that in the three years of working together, Mr. Gullen has shown extensive knowledge of plants and trees and made a real effort to promote groups like the Eagle Scouts. Mr. Gullen permitted the Park District to provide heavy equipment for removal of buckthorn and honeysuckle and has been an intermediary between information, logistics, and making events work for volunteers. When Mr. Gullen would coordinate and supervise events such as the Science Olympiad that may cover material with which he is unfamiliar, by the time of the event he would have learned enough to provide a certain level of expertise.

Commissioner Beck said Mr. Gullen supported the NRC with work crews when possible. He is extremely knowledgeable and has facilitated the cooperation between the Village and the Park District and made sure it was a good partnership.

The NRC's appreciation will be expressed in letter form addressed to Mr. Gullen with a copy sent to THE GLENVIEW ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Commissioner Beck moved to approve the Natural Resources Commission write a letter of appreciation to Mr. Fred Gullen for his good works. Commissioner Blomquist seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Beck moved that Chairperson Saunders sign Mr. Fred Gullen's letter of appreciation on behalf of the Natural Resources Commission and send it to Mr. Fred Gullen and THE GLENVIEW ANNOUNCEMENTS. Commissioner Blomquist seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0.

### **Old Business**

#### **2011 Business Plan Review**

It is a good idea for the Natural Resources Commission to go before the Board of Trustees once a year and present the Commission's accomplishments of the past 12 months as well as its future plans. At the next NRC meeting the Commission will discuss if Arbor Day would be a good time to make this presentation.

Commissioners discussed amending the NRC's Business Plan document. A project's progress should be updated in the "Completed" field; add the estimated completion date if the project is not yet finished or report it as "ongoing." Goals should be fine-tuned and new projects added as they develop.

First Page, Action Steps, add schools in terms of Outreach. Measures: Reword paragraph on rain barrels.

Measures: List what is possible and what is not.

Staffing the Table at Local Events: The NRC should go in front of the Glenview Values Group on occasion.

Goal No. 2

Add “Apply for a minimum of two grants a year as available.”

Goal No. 3

Work with Development Department to suggest ordinance revisions that support natural habitat and environmental quality.

Replace the part about coordinating with the Stormwater Task Force with “Follow the Stormwater Task Force recommendations to identify mutually beneficial projects.”

Measures: The Village will continue to save healthy ash trees and combat the Emerald Ash Borer.

Goal No. 4

The Council of North Suburban Environment Commissions (CONSEC) section needs to be amended to “Quarterly meetings take place at the Chicago Botanic Garden.”

The Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIPP), an invasive plant group that is now housed inside the Botanic Garden, has available funding. The NRC could collaborate with others to receive grant funding for projects.

Goal No. 5

Action Steps, The Capital Projects add “As they arise.”

Goal No. 6

Commissioners should

- Check the Village website and determine how communications are presented.
- Talk to Ms. Lynne Stiefel, Communications Director, and discuss what the website is capable of doing.

2011 Business Plan Review will be on the next agenda.

The Commission should invite Ms. Stiefel to the March NRC meeting to discuss:

- Business Plan
- When to go before the Village Board.

Chairperson Saunders would like to add to the NRC’s Business Plan that businesses should be contacted about River Day and a slide show prepared for the Chamber meeting.

**Review of Tours Related to West Fork Grant Project:  
West Fork Bike Tour**

Ms. Flakne explained the West Fork Bike Tour was an outreach project to provide residents along the West Fork with options in dealing with shoreline erosion issues. The NRC is trying to connect residents to resources such as:

- Others who have experience with this issue
- Glenview's Cost Share Programs:
  - Rain Garden Program
  - Engineering Inspection Program which allows an Inspector from Baxter & Woodman to perform a comprehensive look at the drainage and shoreline erosion issues.
- Demonstration areas
- Meeting with Mr. Tom Ganfield, Baxter & Woodman, to learn residents' concerns and explain river issues
- Follow-up Question & Answer sheets sent to residents
- Follow-up tours to show what has been done on Village property:
  - Bike tour showing riparian restoration projects and other water-quality issues that the Village has been working on such as: permeable pavement, green roof, and Lake Glenview showing that Village efforts are all part of one system
  - Information sheets and bike route to be put on the Village website so residents can self-tour to those locations
  - Another bike tour in the Spring, 2012.

**Chicago Botanic Garden Tour**

Residents adjacent to the river were invited to the Chicago Botanic Garden to observe some of the work being done there to stabilize riverbanks and shore line. The Botanic Garden staff explained the challenges that were faced.

Chairperson Saunders will write a letter of thanks to Ms. Beth Coulson and Ms. Ginny Hotaling at the Botanic Garden for their help in the tour.

The Village has applied for 319 Grant funding to assist residents in implementing riverbank stabilization projects and erosion problems.

Chairperson Saunders and Commissioner Blomquist will visit with residents that are interested in working together.

Commissioner Ganim had a discussion with Mr. Eric Patt on liability issues.

- Commissioners are regarded as municipal officials and therefore, covered by the Village.
- It is important for tour participants to sign waivers.
- Illinois Tort Immunity Act will cover municipal officers acting within the scope of their authority.

Commissioner Ganim also spoke to Ms. Sharon Tanner, who handles insurance for the Village, and learned Commissioners are covered in the policy. As long as Commissioners are acting within the scope of their authority, not acting recklessly, or grossly negligent, Commissioners can feel comfortable they are not personally exposed for the activities undertaken on behalf of the community.

Commissioner Halliday identified some rules and regulations for bike tours:

- All participants must wear a helmet.
- Everyone should ride single-file either on the street (preferably) or on the sidewalk.
- Bicycles should be walked across intersections.
- One participant should be designated “Leader” and one participant should be designated “Sweep” to make sure no one is left behind. The Sweep should carry repair tools.
- Participants should bring their own water.

Another bicycle tour may be planned for the Spring. This event should be on the January, 2012 NRC Agenda.

#### **Review of Events:**

##### **Bioswale Planting**

Ms. Flakne said this was an Eagle Scout project with Mr. Patrick Martin which planted many plants in the bioswales adjacent to the new Metra permeable pavement parking lot.

##### **Buckthorn Removal**

Buckthorn removal was at the former Dominick’s site downtown.

##### **Farmer’s Market Green Table**

A thorough review of the Farmer’s Market Green Table will be presented at the January, 2012 meeting. Chairperson Saunders said the Green Table conversations went well yet need props. Commissioner Ganim brought a rain barrel with a gutter attached to it. Wagner Farm is always looking for volunteers to staff it. Add Woodworth Prairie to the list of potential invitees.

##### **Gallery Park Sign Installation**

All but three signs have been installed at Gallery Park. There are a number of other sites that could benefit from signage. More permanent signage could be part of the NRC’s Business Plan for 2012, however, there is not a budget for this in 2012 so it may be something to add to the Business

Plan for 2013. Signage might be a good way to get the business community involved by having the descriptive sign above another sign saying, “The above sign was sponsored by *The Name of Business.*” Reach 1 has red boxes which stock informational brochures.

**Review of Meetings:**  
**CONSEC**

The quarterly meeting of the Council of North Suburban Environment Commissions (CONSEC) was held at the Chicago Botanic Garden with Commissioners Beck and Halliday in attendance. The speaker was Ms. Debra Stone, Director and Chief Sustainability Officer for Cook County. Villages reported:

- Highland Park is looking at Styrofoam recycling and opting out of the yellow pages because of the landfill problem and expense.
- Glencoe and Lake Forest will have a referendum on electricity pricing.
- Winnetka is concerned about stormwater.
- The company Greenwise is willing to donate materials for permeable paving but the entity which receives materials must advertise Greenwise.
- Evanston received the Climate Protection Award of \$15,000 and donated it to Citizens’ Greener Evanston.
- Wilmette is investigating electricity pricing.

**North Branch Planning Committee**

See “Grant Opportunities” listed below.

**Chicago River Day Planning**

The next Chicago River Day is May 12, 2012. The Chicago Wilderness Congress will next meet on November 15, 2012

**Grant Opportunities**

Ms. Flakne said among the grant opportunities is:

- Emerald Ash Borer Reforestation Grant for replanting.
- The Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Program is looking for a larger scale project to implement green infrastructure best management practices to control stormwater runoff for water quality protection.

Mr. Roy Fickel said the Public Works Department has been involved in:

- Planting 215 trees this fall
- Resuming the holiday light recycling program
- Assisting the Eagle Scout project of Mr. Andrew Peterson who washed and repainted all 670 engraved bricks in Navy Park and created a directory for them.

**Outreach**

The NRC could begin to develop a strategic plan for future Eagle Scout projects.

Mr. Joe Boyle said the Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse is a non-profit organization which promotes the deconstruction of buildings in contrast to the demolition of buildings. Usable construction materials such as plumbing, lighting fixtures, and lumber are donated so the materials become a tax deduction. These items become available on a retail basis for anyone to purchase. Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse also trains low-income participants and unemployed persons in the techniques of deconstruction.

This organization may align with the NRC's goals. Perhaps the NRC would consider requesting a change in the demolition ordinance fee structure to promote deconstruction which would mean less material in the landfill, resources being reused, and level the cost discrepancy between demolition and deconstruction.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Blomquist moved to adjourn. Commissioner Ganim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott  
Recording Secretary