

**MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
July 18, 2011**

Call to Order by the Chairman

The July 18, 2011 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairperson Saunders at 7:01 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. Roy Fickel, Public Works Department
Ms. Chris McCooey, League of Women Voters

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Saunders asked for corrections or comments to the June 20, 2011 Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Page two, paragraph one, fourth line should read, "... events and educating the public. The NRC should consider the value of electronic press releases and discuss them with Ms. Lynne Stiefel, Village Communications Director. Commissioners should read the Wagner Farm blog on the internet which is written by Mr. Todd Price."

Page two, paragraph two, second line should read, "... is an organization called Safer Pest Control that provides ..."

Page two, fifth paragraph, fifth line should read, "... Peninsula in Washington State."

Page three, second paragraph, second line should read, "... Chairperson Saunders and Commissioners Beck and Halliday."

Page three, fourth paragraph, second line should read, "... Mr. Drew Mayes who is taking on some of Mr. Joe Kenney's former responsibilities will ..."

Page four, third paragraph, eleventh line should read, "... the three watersheds in Glenview and the Village's response to flooding events. ¶ Village actions to reduce flooding include cost-sharing programs on overhead sewers and home drainage inspections. This project is leveraging work that has already begun with rain barrels and rain gardens."

Page five, first paragraph, eighth line should read, "... gypsum for trees. ¶The question was also raised: Does gypsum help alleviate the damage from salt that runs off impervious concrete into the soil and plantings during winter at the Train Station?

Commissioner Halliday moved to approve the June 20, 2011 Minutes as corrected. Commissioner Blomquist seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0.

General Communications

The North Branch Planning Committee, of the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, meets quarterly and would welcome National Resources Commissioners if they wish to attend.

On Tuesday, August 2 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Glenview Public Library Professor Dennis Nyberg, University of Illinois at Chicago, Steward of the Woodworth Prairie on Milwaukee Avenue, will give a talk.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

Old Business

Review of Street Sale

Commissioner Chiappetta greeted visitors at Glenview Street Sale's Village booth and distributed tee-shirts and brochures. Commissioner Beck also welcomed visitors at the Street sale as well as The Farmer's Market on Saturday, June 25. Perhaps the NRC could speak with Ms. Stiefel about creating interesting signage to alert passersby to the Village booth at next year's Street Sale. Commissioner Beck suggested distributing nonpermanent tattoos which might be available at The Learning Post, Constructive Playthings, or Oriental Trading Company.

Update on Farmer's Market Green Table

An updated Farmer's Market Green Table calendar was distributed to Commissioners. On Saturday, July 2 recycling was available and they were kept busy with people dropping off batteries, televisions, paper, and clothing.

Commissioner Ganim will bring a rain barrel when he attends the Green Table, and greet visitors and talk about the West Fork Corridor, Glenview's Home for the Chicago River. Ms. Flakne said there is much information that could be used as visual aids. Perhaps Natural Resources Commissioners could wear a name tag showing the Village logo. Rain barrels are still available to Village residents. Wood chips are also available from the Village for free.

Review of West Fork Residential Information/Workshop

Ms. Flakne said the West Fork Residential Information/Workshop was well attended. A “frequently asked questions” sheet will soon be available. Educational outreach will continue for approximately one year.

The NRC ought to be prepared to talk about stormwater situations regardless of workshop subject matter. Commissioner Beck said people sometimes get confused with the difference between property rights and federal, state, and local regulations that impact property rights. The NRC should speak with Ms. Stiefel about producing a set of question-and-answer brochures for flooding and streambank erosion. Residents should call MWRD at 312-751-5106 to report storm debris blockage in the river.

There is a book called “Paddle to the Sea” written by Holling C. Holling about a young Indian boy who carves a little canoe with a figure inside and names him Paddle-to-the-Sea. Paddle's journey, in text and pictures, through the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean provides an excellent geographic and historical picture of the region.

Beginning in June radio station WBEZ’s program called “Front and Center” launched web features, radio documentaries and live call-in specials on public radio stations throughout the Great Lakes region. The first series focuses on water—the critical resource linking the 42 million residents of Great Lakes basin—and examines politics and people shaping the region. Front and Center will bring an in-depth exploration of the Great Lakes region’s workforce. With the region's industrial economic base in decline, experts are looking at how water can play a central role in defining a new economic future that balances the need to create jobs and protect the environment.

The frequently asked questions document will touch on the Village’s stormwater responsibilities, what residents should be prepared to do, and direct residents to the Stormwater Task Force materials on the website. Chairperson Saunders will ask Ms. Meshawn Ayala, from Friends of the Chicago River, for published materials on stormwater that may also provide relevant information for residents.

CONSEC Meeting August 27

The Council of North Suburban Environment Commissions (CONSEC) is the regional environmental commissioners group’s new name. They will next meet at the Chicago Botanic Garden on August 27 at 9:00 a.m. More than two Natural Resources Commissioners are allowed to attend these meetings.

Commissioner Ganim said at the last CONSEC meeting each commission was requested to provide an inventory of its environmental initiatives and activities. Ms. Flakne will forward this information to Commissioner Ganim.

Outreach

Chairperson Saunders suggested the Commission should revisit its Business Plan at the next NRC meeting. Go Green Glenview, which shares information and meets quarterly, will meet this fall. Perhaps the NRC can meet with the Rotary Club or Chamber of Commerce and talk about the river.

Glenview has applied for 319 Federal Grant funding which will be matched by residents for private property erosion issues. The Village proposed a certain number of educational sessions as part of the 319 grant application. A presentation should be prepared to raise environmental awareness, stating what the Village has accomplished, explaining what other communities have completed up and down the river, and ways to deal with erosion problems.

It would be good to have Commissioner Halliday's prairie illustrations on display at the Glenview Public Library.

New Business

Potential Canoe-Based River Cleanup Event

Mr. Gary Riskin, elementary school teacher, suggested a river clean-up from the water. Chairperson Saunders contacted Ms. Debra Shore at MWRD and a local Boy Scout Leader about the possibility of this event. Perhaps there could be one pilot group for the initial outing. One possible location for "putting in" the canoe or kayak is after the spillway; and a place to "take out" could be Riverside Park located in downtown Glenview. It is unclear whether there is a significant amount of trash to clean up, and how well the pool and riffle structures would tolerate the traffic. The Village may have also have insurance concerns.

Active Transportation Alliance/Bike Paths

Active Transportation Alliance (ATA) has organized a consortium of communities trying to connect bicycle paths. Commissioner Ganim will attend their next meeting in Highland Park as the NRC may like to join the group.

Other

Ms. Flakne noted the Village will be moving forward on the Waukegan, Dewes, and River Roads Raingarden. An Eagle Scout is lined up to begin work this fall.

The Patriot and Chestnut medians replanting work is suspended until Village finances improve. The medians are maintained through the natural areas maintenance contract and also by summer interns as their schedule allows. Commissioners hope the median work will resume. The Village has learned a lot about planting medians: do not mound up dirt where water can run off—install swales.

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Commissioner Blomquist announced another Eagle Scout, Mr. Ryan Dooner, is working on completing his project at Sleepy Hollow Park by clearing out a section of honeysuckle and buckthorn adjacent to the section cleared out last year. The Park District will use a tree excavator to pull out honeysuckle and buckthorn stumps that have been treated.

The next Natural Resources Commission meeting is on September 19.

Adjournment

Commissioner Beck moved to adjourn. Commissioner Blomquist seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott
Recording Secretary