



MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
March 18, 2013

Call to Order by the Chairman

The March 18, 2013 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, Ganim, Halliday and Newman;
and Ms. Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison

ABSENT: Commissioner Chiappetta

GUEST: Mr. Roy Fickel, Superintendent of Public Works Department

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Saunders asked for corrections or comments to the January 21, 2013 Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Page two, Item 1, should read, "How is water stored in the vault under the building and released into the river? Possible solution: Establish rain gardens and bioswales to catch runoff."

Page three, third paragraph, fifth line should read, "... apply for recognition for ..."

Page three, sixth paragraph, add a sixth line which should read, "Public walkway."

Page four, first paragraph, 13th line, should read, "The Village website explains the green infrastructure bike tour's Passport Program in which the riders visiting all the different sites receive a prize."

Page five, first paragraph, second line should read, "Received grants that save the Village funds."

Commissioner Beck moved to approve the January 21, 2013 Minutes as amended. Commissioner Newman seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0.

General Communications

The Fifth National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration (NCER) will be held July 29 – August 2 at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel. NCER is an interdisciplinary conference on large scale ecosystem restoration presenting state-of-the art science and engineering, planning and policy in a partnership environment.

On April 3 Healthy Water Solutions and the Natural Resources Defense Council will present “Changing Course: Revitalizing the Chicago River” which is a group of over 100 environmentalists, architects, outdoor enthusiasts, students, and citizens to discuss a revolutionary way to revitalize the Chicago River—by restoring the natural divide between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins. This monumental undertaking would bring significant benefits not just to Chicago, but also to the Midwest region as a whole.

Commissioner Beck added there is an ongoing discussion about whether or not Lake Michigan should be separated from the Chicago River. One of the issues involved is the building of dams and what it does to stormwater in all of the Chicago River communities. Part of the plan is a phase-in position that involves separation as the first step in order to prevent Asian carp from infesting Lake Michigan. The idea is to construct dams between the river and the lake. Asian carp have been found in Lake Erie and there are 18 other spots of concern.

There is a program called Energy Impact Illinois which allows homeowners (and institutions) to receive energy audits and financial help with making their homes and buildings more energy efficient. The Highland Park Environmental Commissioners have all agreed to give house parties as outreach. Commissioner Newman had his house audited and refurbished last year and is happy with the results.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

Old Business

• Bike Glenview/Bike Routes

Mr. Mike Tasker, Village GIS Department, prepared a chart of bicycle routes in Glenview. The chart will be on one side of the map and the other side will display Glenview’s Green Infrastructure Bike Tour prepared by Ms. Flakne, along with bike safety comments.

Commissioner Ganim will contact the Active Transportation Alliance and ask their opinion of Glenview’s draft bike map. The more people are aware how easy it is to get around the Village, especially with these shortcuts, the more people will bicycle or walk. The Park District will publicize the map. A question was brought up: Which of the easements are maintained by the Village?

• Upcoming Events

- NRC Presentation to Village Board, April 2

Chairperson Saunders met with Ms. Stiefel about composing a presentation to the Village Board. Ms. Stiefel recommended discussing one slide per minute for 10 minutes on 10 major points. Suggested topics include:

1. Glenview is special because of its three watersheds, resident diversity, and interaction with nature. Having three watersheds can be difficult during a flood; the challenge is to manage stormwater using green infrastructure.

2. Glenview has incorporated nature into its Comprehensive Plan.

3. There are on-going programs which reflect the community's values: Arbor Day, River Clean Up Day, Green Table at the Farmer's Market, and the Rain Garden Program, among others.

4. Ms. Flakne has applied for and received many grants. (Ms. Flakne will supply a list of grant-money received.)

5. Businesses want to be in Glenview and are interested in a green infrastructure such as the Midwest Palliative Care Center and American College of Chest Physicians which will apply for a green certification and will integrate a prairie landscape with neighboring Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie.

6. The Natural Resources Commission is proud of Glenview's achievements which have been acknowledged by several awards. There is a positive outcome for birds, mussels, businesses, and the entire community.

Water is a big piece of what green infrastructure is about.

- River Day, May 11

Spring Chicago River Day flyers were given to Commissioners for distribution.

- Arbor Day, April 26

Project Earth will plant a white oak tree at Glenbrook South High School.

• **Review of Recent Meetings/Events**

- Wild Things Conference, February 2, University of Illinois at Chicago
Chairperson Saunders and Ms. Flakne attended the Wild Things Conference. There were many seminars from which to choose. Ms. Flakne attended the "Adaptive Restoration Strategies for Conserving Oak Woodland Communities" seminar which examined the Lake County Forest Preserves experimental trial of oak tree regeneration over 900 acres of different treatments. Buckthorn and canopy trees are being removed to get light levels back for oak regeneration.

- Council of North Suburban Environment Commissions (**CONSEC**)

Commissioner Halliday attended the CONSEC meeting held at the Chicago Botanic Garden with seven people present.

Glencoe

- Started a sustainability working group which has suggested changes to the Village code and will also educate residents on sustainability issues
- School Board will consider installing geothermal heating and cooling in three schools
- Chose 100 per cent renewable electricity in their aggregation
- Village Board will vote on a coastline steep slope ordinance.

Highland Park

- Has had a steep slope ordinance since 1995 which states building may not begin within 10 feet of a steep slope and within 40 feet of a bluff. Only approved species of trees may be planted on the slopes.
- Environmental Commission was merged with the Lake Forest Environmental Commission
- Is expecting approval of a new 1,200 square foot lakefront learning center to be built on the beach.

Northbrook

- Is using less salt on roadways
- Has good participation in community gardens
- Appointed a sub-commission to work with the Stormwater Management Commission and want to include green infrastructure.

Lake Forest

- Had its Five-Year Strategic Plan approved.

Winnetka

- Has a multi-million dollar stormwater management plan
- Is considering to build a large tunnel under Willow Road to shift stormwater to the lake.

The next CONSEC meeting will be on May 4 which will have a speaker from the Alliance for the Great Lakes.

- Conservation Congress, March 13, South Shore Cultural Center, Chicago

Commissioner Beck attended the Conservation Congress meeting. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) now has funds and is looking for input on how to use the funds. Mr. Marc Miller, DNR Director, would like to use some of the capital in order to make the state parks sustainable, possibly using geothermal and solar energy.

In September there will be a Conservation Congress in Springfield where the goal will be to develop work plans for actionable items.

- Commissioner Training, March 14

Consultants from the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development, DePaul University, gave the presentation. There was much discussion about zoning. Village President, Ms. Kerry Cummings, will swear-in Village Commissioners on April 2. At the May NRC meeting Chairperson Saunders will swear-in Commissioner Ganim who is unable to attend on April 2.

The NRC's student Commissioner will remain a two-year position and will be held by a high school or college student. Chairperson Saunders will confer with student Commissioner Chiappetta regarding Commissioner Chiappetta's term on the NRC.

There was discussion about the Open Meetings Act e-mail protocol and exparte conversations about docket items. Business e-mails should be sent to Ms. Flakne who will then forward them on to Commissioners. When a Commissioner receives an e-mail from another NRC member, reply only to the "Sender" – do not "Reply to All." Two Commissioners can communicate back-and-forth but communicating with a third Commissioner would mean the majority of a quorum and that is disallowed.

- **Update on Projects and Grant Applications**

- The Waukegan Road rain garden installation by Project Earth is tentatively scheduled for May 25.

- An Eagle Scout, using a National Tree Benefit Calculator, will work on a project near the downtown Glenview Metra Train Station where trees will be tagged explaining how many dollars of benefits each tree provides each year. The tags will be removed after two weeks.

- Glenbrook South High School's Project Earth has created drawings for green infrastructure signs. A professional will soon be hired to assemble the project.

- Grant Application Status:

- Grant denied for a third Emerald Ash Borer Reforestation grant.

- Grant denied for an urban forestry intern.

- 319 Grant denied when the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency informed the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission that the North Branch was not a priority watershed and it will not be a priority watershed until 2015. The grant applied for was intended for the West Fork corridor project with a sub-grant to private residents.

There are a few grant applications which are still under consideration.

-- No response yet to the application made by Mr. Jim Warnstedt, Glenview Park District, and Ms. Flakne for a grant through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Fiscal Year 2013 money for EAB reforestation.

• **Outreach**

Perhaps Science Teachers in District 34 could be encouraged to go outside of the classroom with their students.

Private foundations might have resources for education-based programs.

Commissioners can distribute flyers for River Day requesting volunteers.

New Business

• **Woodworth Prairie Possible Designation as Illinois Nature Preserve**

Chairperson Saunders and Commissioner Ganim visited the James Woodworth Prairie and spoke to its Steward, Dr. Dennis Nyberg. In order to protect this land perhaps it should be designated as an Illinois Nature Preserve. Dr. Nyberg asked if the NRC would support such a designation. Within the next twelve months the Commission can consider whether the Village Board should write a letter to the University of Illinois Trustees in support of the designation.

Chairperson Saunders and Commissioner Beck met with Mr. Gerry Adelman, President and CEO of Openlands, to discuss a way to help people remember the importance of the Woodworth Prairie. Mr. Stephen Packard, Chicago Wilderness, said the Woodworth Prairie is well managed and is one of the few original prairies that is in pristine condition.

Consideration should be given to plant a time capsule in Woodworth Prairie with documents that celebrate Openlands such as a copy of Ms. Bernice's Popelka's book, "Saving Peacock Prairie." Perhaps the McDonald's corporation would be interested in benefitting Openlands and help bring attention to the prairie, considering its proximity to the Woodworth Prairie.

Adjournment

Commissioner Beck moved to adjourn. Commissioner Newman seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott
Recording Secretary