



MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
January 20, 2014

Call to Order by the Chairman

The January 20, 2014 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairperson Saunders at 7:00 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 Baetz

GUESTS: Mr. Tom Ganfield, Baxter & Woodman
Mr. Jeff Brady, Village Planning Director
Ms. Michelle House, Planner, Village of Glenview
Ms. Cathleen Burrell, Glenview League of Women Voters

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Saunders asked for corrections or comments to the November 18, 2013 Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting.

Page two, first paragraph, second line should read, "... was very well attended."

Page two, fourth paragraph, first line should read, "... Alliance for Community Trees"

Page two, fourth paragraph, fourth line should read, "... hackberrys, beech) in ..."

Page two, seventh paragraph, first line should read, "... now well integrated into Glenview's ..."

Page three, fourth paragraph, second line should read, "... and Mr. Austin Bream, and Ms. Lizzie Baetz for ..."

Page three, fifth paragraph, first line should read, "On the "Paving the Way" sign the bioswale is larger on the picture in proportion to the relative size in the ground."

Page three, seventh paragraph, fifth line should read, "... Mr. Rob Sulski ..."

Commissioner Halliday wanted to acknowledge Ms. Sheri Scott, Recording Secretary, for taking proficient notes. Ms. Scott is grateful for this recognition.

Commissioner Halliday moved to approve the November 18, 2013 Minutes as amended. Commissioner Newman seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0.

General Communications

Review of the Business Plan will take place at the March NRC meeting.

A movie series will be shown at the Heller Nature Center, Highland Park Public Library, and Emily Oaks Nature Center supported by the Highland Park Environmental Commission.

The book “The Art of Migration: Birds, Insects, and the Changing Seasons in Chicagoland,” written by Dr. John Bates and Mr. James. H. Boone, includes beautiful illustrations by Ms. Peggy Macnamara. Both Dr. Bates and Ms. Macnamara are at the Field Museum of Natural History. Commissioner Beck would like to request Field Museum employees as speakers at The Grove Heritage Association annual meeting in June.

Mr. Joel Greenberg, author of “A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon’s Flight to Extinction” is having a book signing reception at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum on Thursday, January 23 at 5:30 p.m. marking the 100th anniversary of the death of the last passenger pigeon.

Chairperson Saunders will speak at the Rotary Club of Glenview – Sunrise on February 20.

Chairperson Saunders spoke with Mr. Elliott Bennett, REI, regarding River Day on May 10. Mr. Bennett said a representative from Friends of the Chicago River may be speaking to executives at REI about partnering for the whole river.

At the next NRC meeting the Commission should discuss the art work that will be exhibited in the new Village Hall which ought to include framed awards.

Ms. Flakne received a call from woman who lives next to a slough that is connected to McDonald Creek in Prospect Heights about having this area as part of a restoration project. The Village representatives the woman spoke with were not interested in pursuing this request, so she asked Ms. Flakne for guidance. One opportunity suggested was to become involved in the planning process with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, which awarded a Local Technical Assistance (LTA) grant to Prospect Heights to create a Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Beck made a suggestion that the Prospect Heights Comprehensive Plan should include a Natural Resources Plan.

A request was made to change the next NRC meeting date to Monday, March 10. Ms. Flakne will e-mail Commissioners if the Lunch Room is available on that day.

Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None.

Old Business

• Heinen's Site – West Fork Planning (Guest Speakers: Mr. Tom Ganfield and Mr. Jeff Brady)

The Natural Resources Commission has discussed possibilities to do some work on the river in conjunction with the building of Heinen's. Mr. Tom Ganfield, Baxter & Woodman, has been working with the Village to develop an acceptable plan. Mr. Ganfield spoke about the latest draft of the plan for the river walk and restoration along the river.

Mr. Ganfield said the Village Board reviewed the last plan in August when the Heinen's development was going through some of their approvals. The Board's direction was to do the riverbank improvements on the east side (Heinen's side) and to install the sidewalk. The sidewalk would be connected to a sidewalk going through the Heinen's development towards the river and then go along the riverbank towards Glenview Road. That was a desired connection as it was a shorter route and also a more naturalized experience than walking through the parking lot. That would be a direct connection from Glenview Road to the Heinen's rather than going to the intersection of Waukegan Road and Glenview Road and going up Waukegan and then going west to the front door of the Heinen's.

The Board of Trustees authorized the riverbank improvements on the east side of the river, sidewalk improvements, and the landscaping and restoration that go with the riverbank restoration on the east side. The Board believed the west bank improvements were completed by OLPH, and liked the environmental improvements to the river but opted to only do those if a grant was received. Ms. Flakne has prepared some grant proposals and is waiting on a response for one of the grants. After discussion of the Heinen's plan tonight, the plan will go to the Appearance Commission and be reviewed with comments from these two meetings, then go to the Village Board along with the costs for the work where a vote will be taken.

Mr. Brady said part of the development of the Heinen's site was removal of buckthorn trees followed by restoration of the riverbank with stabilization. Mr. Ganfield said he would research the slipperiness of recycled plastic at a slight slope for drainage for use on the river walk.

Mr. Ganfield said there will be a handrail between the walk and the river. In two spots there will be a place for a shallow, short segmental retaining wall, which would be a nice place to sit. The area between the sidewalk and the proposed parking lot will be landscaped with little blue stem, and the west of the sidewalk will have a native mix. Ms. Flakne noted that plant plugs will be used so volunteers could help with this project. Shrubs and trees will be planted as well. The longer term maintenance will be a potential combination of herbicide and mowing.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was suggested celebrating the river, river walk, and to reintroduce other work Ms. Flakne has accomplished in other parts of the river. Perhaps the planting of trees on this site could be coordinated with Arbor Day.

Ms. Flakne would like more studies done on the river's fish population. Commissioner Beck suggested a future NRC meeting may include a guest speaker who could inform Commissioners of the status of the whole watershed, how it is monitored, and perhaps to establish some monitoring stations. A fountain would be an amenity and a benefit to aerate the river. Chairperson Saunders added that in order to address concerns about floods and stormwater issues it is necessary to understand the health of the river.

The Natural Resources Commission would like the Appearance Commission to consider stabilization for the stormwater outflow from the Heinen's property, a combination of function and its façade with appropriate plantings.

- **Science Fair, District 34**

In September, 2013 Commissioner Newman and Chairperson Saunders met with the Director of Communications for District 34 about how the NRC can get more involved with the school district. In December the new Principal of Pleasant Ridge School met with Commissioner Newman and his wife, Erin, to help the Dad's Group locate four-to-six judges to organize the Science Fair, which is scheduled for March 8, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. There is a desire to make the Fair about basic science where the students present exhibits that they themselves have created. A suggestion was made to look for judges in the corporate partners in the community.

- **Upcoming Meetings/Events**

- Tree Boards and Commissions, February 4

The Tree Boards and Commissions information-sharing meeting will be held at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle on February 4 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. This meeting is an outgrowth of the effort to examine the tree canopy in the Chicago area. Commissioners Beck and Ganim expressed interest in attending the meeting.

- Chicago Wilderness Congress, April 3

The meeting will be held at the University of Illinois, Chicago campus in The Forum. Ms. Flakne and Commissioner Baetz will be on a panel to talk about coordinating Village activities with high school students.

- Rites of Spring, April 8

Mr. Fred Gullen and Ms. Flakne will speak about the Rain Barrel Program, Rain Garden Program, and perhaps Square Foot Gardens at the Glenview Public Library on April 8.

- **Signs**

Ms. Flakne said work on the signs is continuing with GBS students. The corrections suggested by the NRC are being made. The sign drawings were sent to bid to six companies, but none of them

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submitted proposals. Another bid process will be announced. Ms. Flakne said a 12x24” sign will be sent to the Village as part of the Conservation and Native Landscaping award given to the Reach 1 River Naturalization project by Chicago Wilderness. Commissioner Halliday requested this sign have one word change: “... home to a wide diversity of life and **rare** habitats.” could be changed to “... home to a wide diversity of life and **rich** habitats.”

The Commission would appreciate receiving a paper copy of the sign to frame and place in the Village Hall.

• **Outreach**

Chairperson Saunders will assist Commissioner Newman in locating judges for the District 34 Science Fair.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Commissioner Beck moved to adjourn. Commissioner Halliday seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Scott

Recording Secretary