

**MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
July 21, 2014**

1. Call to Order by the Chairman

The July 21, 2014 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairperson Saunders at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Staff Room.

2. Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum

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

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

ABSENT: Commissioners Baetz and Beck

GUESTS: Ms. Kirsten Triller, Summer Intern
Ms. Kelsey Atkinson, Summer Intern
Ms. Chris McCooey, League of Women Voters
Ms. Lynne Stiefel, Village Communications Director
Mr. Roy Fickel, Superintendent of Public Works

3. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Saunders asked for corrections or comments to the May 19, 2014 Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting. The following revisions will be made:

Section 5 – The additional name of the Science Fair winner who was not in attendance is Rachel Koopersmith.

Section 5 – Commissioner Halliday asked about a Rivers Purple European Beech. Ms. Flakne explained it is a variety of beech and not one she would have suggested, but it was on the landscape plan being followed. Comm. Ganim asked where they are planted and was informed they are on West Lake, at the southeast corner of the campus.

On #3, Comm. Saunders stated she would like to recognize organizations which have members on the Farmer’s Market Green Table who are residents of Glenview. There was no policy except what she remembered, but the intent is the same, which is to give a platform to organizations that are mostly Glenview oriented. She wants to be a little less specific.

On the section of Secured Dates on page 3, Comm. Saunders suggested just removing it since so much has changed. There is now a schedule which is public record. She requested removing the table from the underlined place by “Secure Dates” to the bottom of possible topics; it should be removed to where it says “Farmer’s Market - Summer 2014.” The sentence that starts with “some Wilmette residents” is not an upcoming meeting and therefore should not be bullet pointed.

On the bottom of page 4, Comm. Halliday requested that the word “have” be changed to “has” under the sentence about “places in Glenview where...”

Commissioner Ganim moved to approve the May 19, 2014 Minutes as amended. Commissioner Newman seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0.

4. General Communications

Chairman Saunders announced the resignation of Recording Secretary Sheri Scott and passed around a card for all Commissioners to sign.

5. Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None

Old Business

Meetings & Events:

Chairman Saunders thanked Lynne Stiefel for being at the Green Table all day Saturday. Glenview provided a lot of information and signed people up for the e-newsletter. Annually the Commission tries to invite the Communications Director come and explain how the Commission can support her work and get good ideas on how to better interact with the village residents and explain the Commission’s work.

Chairman Saunders stated that one of the things in the Business Plan is outreach, and an important part of the Commission’s outreach is communications. Lynne’s message is the same as when she appeared at last year’s meeting; her approach to any service provided by the Village is to communicate it on numerous platforms. The newsletter is the best and biggest, but they also do an e-Glenview newsletter with over 3,300 subscribers, which is a good way to interact. She noted that brochures and flyers are made available at public events. Social media is also being pushed more with the use of Facebook, Twitter and You Tube, which are all great tools to reach people, especially young people. These venues are climbing in “likes” and followers. With You Tube video, the Village is making a push to do more. There are now 90-second “Ask the Village” videos. More programming is being done, and a monthly newscast has started which is a compilation of what is in the printed newsletter along with a few things that never made it in there. They would like to expand to have another short segment to introduce a Village employee explaining a program; that will be starting in September. She would encourage this Commission to take advantage of that too if they know a program, service or frequently asked question or event they want to promote, she can help them to do so. She encouraged the use of her services as much as possible, and then asked for any input from Commission members.

Chairman Saunders suggested providing answers to how an Eagle Scout finds a project with the Village or explain what interns do. Chairman Saunders asked if there are ways the Commission could interact with the School or Park District. Lynne said that the Speaker’s Bureau gets in

touch with the Village and it's not in high demand. Commissioner Newman said that last year in September they approached the school district about getting announcements out. A few months later, the Commission received a call from Pleasant Ridge regarding their Science Fair. They were able to get some people from Oakton and organized the judges for that fair. The Commission then received credit for involvement. Lynne said she can work with her counterparts of communicators from all school districts. She has had sporadic contact with a government committee group from District 34 who contacted her regarding Bike Glenview.

Chairman Saunders reported that Comm. Beck wrote an email asking about posters. She can imagine this being useful at the Green Table or at different events, but it would be very rare. She distributed flyers made by other sources and commented that a flyer on "volcano" mulching would be good.

Comm. Newman spoke about social media and tweeting any photos of River Day Clean Up. They posted and tweeted several pictures throughout the event. He recommended that if anyone tweets, they should just put hashtag Glenview Village on it. When that is done, it also shows up on Glenview's feed. Lynne said that if they copy her or email her the pictures, she can create a slideshow to put on e-Glenview. Viewers enjoy slideshows because they are short and quick. Lynne said they can also do that with the bike tour, but suggested no more than ten photos. Chairman Saunders then thanked Lynne for attending the meeting.

Upcoming Events

Chairman Saunders reported the next event is the Green Infrastructure Bike Tour on August 17th. Ms. Flakne stated that she just wants 20 riders on this tour and Comm. Ganim already has 13. She feels that more are still needed since some will probably drop out. There are still a lot of open slots between the real list and wait list. Comm. Halliday reported that there is another bike oriented green table event this Saturday. Comm. Ganim said he can attend along with Alan Rubin. Chairman Saunders stated that they are doing bike recycling and that 40 were recycled last year. That was set up by the Farmer's Market Manager. Comm. Ganim will ensure it is off to a good start. Chairman Saunders wants to make sure they capture back any sign-ups.

Chairman Saunders asked if Lynne also does Glenview TV and was told she does. She noted that all the places they are visiting have an interesting story. Lynne said that the problem is finding volunteers to come out to the sites and film, produce and edit. Comm. Ganim proposed just providing some nice photos of participants. Lynne stated that video is needed. When they were redoing the website she was looking for pretty pictures to add and discovered there is an abundance of natural resource photos. She directed the photographer to all the beautiful Glenview places and included some in the last Village newsletter that highlighted the natural resource areas.

Chairman Saunders reported there is an event on July 24th in Wilmette at Wilmette Prairie where a resident had a retention basin seeded. Lynne said that Glenview does not do a lot of events, as

the Park District takes care of all of that. She stated that it is difficult to take advantage of the natural ways to publicize and suggested perhaps partnering with the Park District, since there are many opportunities there. Lynne would really like to get a village wide bike ride or maybe a twilight ride. She mentioned that last year the Oil Lamp Theatre also was talking about that idea.

Comm. Ganim commented that Carol Freeman was at the last meeting pitching ideas and asked if anything came of that. Lynne explained that there is not a budget to pay Carol. Chairman Saunders said that she was interested in some type of brochures for the natural areas, and mentioned that sometimes a business will pay for something like that. Lynne said they can do calendars and other ideas. Carol Freeman had some bookmarks and great ideas and would be great to use, but there's no money available. Chairman Saunders noted they are doing a lot with a limited budget. Lynne asked if anything came of the recycling projects they were looking for. Ms. Flakne said that was for an Eagle Scout. Lynne reported that there was a discussion about expanding recycling on first Fridays. Some ideas were doing a carpet recycling one time and paint recycling another day. Crayon collecting was also suggested; however, there just hasn't been time to take the recycling further, but they are hopeful to get it done.

Chairman Saunders commented that most of Ms. Flakne's time is being spent on trees. She asked about the Emerald Ash Borer and its aftermath. Ms. Flakne said that at this point she wouldn't recommend that someone try to treat a tree unless it was in perfect condition and they were very devoted. Her message to everyone is to please remove their dead trees. The symptom being noticed is that it doesn't have any leaves. Ms. Flakne stated that it is at such a saturation point; she hasn't met anyone who doesn't know about it at this point. Lynne said they used to put out pamphlets, but it's too late now. Roy said that "volcano" mulching is still an issue and he'll occasionally put flyers in mailboxes including a good one from the Morton Arboretum.

ITW World Environment Date - Comm. Ganim was in attendance at this event and reported that it was a nice day and there were one or two fewer participants in the booth area compared to last year. They had some displays on waste issues and he felt he was in a good location for the event. He did think there were fewer people stopping by this year. This was based on the fact that they had some bike maps to distribute and ended up with a lot left, compared to last year when they ran out. He was unsure if they had much of a message there. They had examples of waste and recycling, but were not drawing people to the Commission's table. He probably should've been in contact with Ms. Flakne in advance about the type of message the Commission wanted to convey. They were sparse with exhibitors and employees who were interested. He then reported that part of ITW might be moving; their headquarters were going and manufacturing might be staying. Comm. Ganim will work on the right message to make it relevant and draw more people. Ms. Atkinson noted that not everyone at the ITW event was a resident of Glenview. Comm. Ganim said that ITW didn't seem to provide much direction other than the topic. Ms. Flakne asked what other organizations were there and was informed it included ComEd, organizations selling plants and honey, and the Botanic Garden Youth Farm group who was

selling produce. She noted that they usually have good speakers at the event. Chairman Saunders thanked Comm. Ganim for attending as ITW is an important business in Glenview.

Bike Tour – Chairman Saunders noted there are some sign-ups for this and asked if there is anything else that needs to be done. Ms. Flakne responded that if more names could be collected it would be helpful. She wants 20 and some backup, but doesn't want to exceed 40. She likes Lynne's idea to see how many are received before promoting any more. Comm. Ganim suggested not posting until after this Saturday, and recalled there were a lot of cancellations last time. Chairman Saunders liked the idea of getting the slideshow up after the event. Comm. Halliday asked if there was a rain date. Ms. Flakne pointed out that it has never rained before, and that making that judgment call will be tough. She suggested just doing it rain or shine; however, if there is lightning and thunder then everyone should stay home. Chairman Saunders recommended sending an email on the 13th to those signed up with whatever final plan is decided. Chairman Saunders, Ganim and Halliday are planning to go, and Comm. Newman was unsure at this point. Ms. Flakne stated that they will have the rain garden on Waukegan ready this year and thanked the interns for their efforts.

There was discussion regarding scheduling a fall river day somewhere between late September to early November. After reviewing available dates on the Glenbrook calendar and for District 34, it was decided to schedule November 2nd from 9am to noon. This would also allow for a rain date if needed.

Chairman Saunders asked the interns to explain some of their responsibilities over the summer. They reported that Ms. Flakne has been taking them to different residential neighborhoods to evaluate trees and talk to neighbors and assess the trees and issue permits. They mark public trees if they are dead, and have also done weeding of the bio-swales. Ms. Flakne wants to take them out to regional meetings whenever she can. They have attended a sustainability team meeting with Chicago Wilderness and went to Des Plaines River Green Mapping. Roy spoke about a workshop staff attended about a system to determine how sound a tree is and described it as an MRI for a tree. The interns update an on-line inventory of all trees when they go in the field and measure the diameter of the tree. They have also gone to construction projects to meet with developers. Chairman Saunders said that the new economy has a lot of people removing and building new houses. They have gone to the Methodist Church on Harlem to see how they are going to develop the detention basin there.

Grant Application Status

- Ms. Flakne said they have not heard from Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant (IGIG) so she doesn't expect to get this, but it is out there.
- The Village was awarded the 319 grant for the River Bank Stabilization near Heinen's.

- The Village applied to ComEd for \$10,000 for the same project and got \$5,000.
- The Village is applying for more 319 funding for the detention basin project and coordinating with the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission. That one is a joint application between the Village and Glenbrook South High School.
- There is a chance the Village will be reapplying for the Chi-Cal Rivers grant, which was applied for last year.

Comm. Saunders reported on the Farmer's Market Green Table. Comm. Ganim was there signing up people for the bike tour and a Park Commissioner was also in attendance. Chairman Saunders was there a few days ago with some individuals from the village. She said that the recycling day for the Village was the same day and there were a lot of TV's being recycled. Comm. Newman thanked Roy for doing that event.

New Business

Business Plan

Ms. Flakne said that once it is done, it just gets updated, and noted there hasn't been a whole lot of change over the years on it. The intention is just to review and catch if anything is not on there that should be or something the commission is no longer doing that should be removed. It is to keep the Commission on the right path toward what it wants to accomplish. Commissioner Ganim said that under Goal #4, CONSEC is still listed, which is pretty much done so he suggested crossing that out in several places. Chairman Saunders stated there was hope

CONSEC was going to take some leadership and that didn't really happen. The environmental committees for different towns are so different it is hard to be a regional anything. She suggested looking at Goal #4 and see if there are different action steps.

Commissioner Halliday proposed organizing a review of all the permeable concrete that has been put down to see if it is feasible to continue. This would include reviewing how much was covered, how much maintenance is required, the cost and cost projections for the future. Chairman Saunders asked if staff knows if there is grant reporting, and was informed that would be Russ Jensen. Roy said there were a lot of Village engineers watching it when it got poured. Goal #4 says to "Coordinate with the regional organizations." Under Action Steps, it says "participate" and "optionally attend other regional meetings..." She proposed perhaps eliminating "attend and report" because it is impossible. On the second one she proposed saying "take leadership as appropriate on regional issues" as a way of not overcommitting staff. Chairman Saunders stated that measures are also tricky and the first measure has to go. If Commissioner Beck were present, Chairman Saunders thinks she would be talking about the tree initiative which is a very strong regional initiative. Ms. Flakne noted it is on the Action Steps, and that Commissioner Beck is a member of the regional trees initiative and the trees and green infrastructure group. Chairman Saunders reported that on August 19th there is a meeting of

those two teams in the loop on a week day. Ms. Flakne said there is a major kickout event they are planning soon at the Arboretum. There's a lot of work Chicago Wilderness is trying to do on the regional trees initiative. Ms. Flakne said she is the co-chair of the Sustainability Team and there is involvement by the Commission on this. She feels that if you're on the team, you should try to make 50% of the meetings. She said that if someone wants to be a member of the team it's not hard to do; they just need to start showing up at meetings and they're on the team. Chairman Saunders asked for any definite word changes to be passed on.

It was noted that CONSEC, the Council of North Suburban Environmental Commissions, is no longer meeting regularly. There is a different group meeting with a similar name, but a different membership that is called Council of North Shore Environment Groups (CONSEG).

Chairman Saunders commented that she was very impressed with Ms. Flakne and all she did on the Business Plan. She asked if the part about reviewing ordinances was taken out, as she thought it was connected to Mary Bak who is now gone. Ms. Flakne said it is under Goal 3 at the bottom – "Review a minimum of one ordinance annually and identify major concerns." She noted it is in here largely because it is in the Natural Resource Plan and is something they'd have to coordinate with the Planning or Development Department, as she doesn't have expertise with ordinances. They would have to arrange with the Planning Department that this is something they actually want the Commission to do. She applied for CMAP grants to get them to do them all the ordinances. It would be better to approach it as they need to be updated instead of once a year. She tried to get the local technical assistance and was advised that Glenview is on a waitlist pending further funding, and they haven't gotten back to her. She doesn't expect that CMAP is going to come do the ordinances and is not sure where to turn. Chairman Saunders said the enforcement issue is what bothers her. She commented that if you drive down Johns Drive it is all sweet clover, and by the Costco site it has always been an issue. Commissioner Ganim asked why this is not being enforced and was informed by Ms. Flakne that it is a lack of manpower. Chairman Saunders said invasive plants are spreading because no one pays attention and doesn't know. She suggested trying to work on educating residents on phragmites and put it in a brochure. Chairman Saunders said that she will discuss this further with Ms. Flakne to try to figure out a nice way to do this. The average homeowner doesn't have phragmites and on commercial sites Ms. Flakne said that the village can enforce mowing it. Chairman Saunders noted that it is at the intersection of Ravine Way and Johns where the footpath goes to the train. If anyone is interested in those topics, they should let Chairman Saunders know.

Comm. Halliday suggested taking the review of administration out of the Business Plan. She likes the goal overall; however, it is difficult to measure. Comm. Halliday said the Commission needs to be aware of what is around and what's coming up. Chairman Saunders pointed out that a lot of that is in the action steps and that it is just about how to measure, and she will work with development. It was agreed to remove the line about "review" since the Commission doesn't rely on this much and it is difficult to feel strongly about a lot of it. Comm. Ganim expressed his opinion that the business plan is a good summary of why the Commission exists.

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Adjournment

Commissioner Newman moved to adjourn; Commissioner Halliday seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Schultz
Recording Secretary