

MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
June 8, 2015

Final

1. Call to Order by the Chairman

The June 8, 2015 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairperson Saunders at 7:05 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: Chairman Saunders; Commissioners Ganim, Halliday, Newman and Beck;
Dr. Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager

ABSENT: Commissioner Chiapetta (*joined later*)

GUESTS: Ms. Chris McCooey, League of Women Voters; Nathaniel Hoerger, Village of
Glenview summer intern

3. Approval of Minutes

The March 16, 2015 Minutes were not reviewed at this meeting.

4. General Communications

Chairman Saunders reported that the Friends of the Chicago River is doing two canoe trips along the north branch of the Chicago River for \$50.00 a person. The trip will begin in Winnetka at the Willow Road Dam, go through Glenview and end up in Morton Grove. The dates are on the flyer and registration can be done online. Dr. Flakne noted they are not going through the west fork, but rather the middle fork, so they aren't going through downtown Glenview. This group is doing a lot of awareness raising and habitat restoration in the forest preserves.

Chairman Saunders stated that the Comprehensive Plan Committee has been appointed. She has been appointed from the NRC, and Judy Beck has been appointed from the Environmental Review Committee. The first kickoff meeting is a community meeting on June 22nd at 7:00 pm and she encouraged all NRC members to try to attend. The first official Committee Meeting will be held June 25th. The Committee will last approximately nine months. The League of Women Voters will have Jen Roberts as a representative. Commissioner Beck explained that communities are supposed to have a comprehensive plan update every few years to review several items, such as where zoning might need to be changed. It provides an opportunity for community input. It does not make policy like the Village Board does, but it directs the policy and provides guidance to the elected officials and staff.

Commissioner Halliday reported that her illustrator's local chapter is having an exhibit of art at the Glacial Park at Lost Valley Visitor's Center in Ringwood, Illinois, just north of McHenry. The opening reception will be June 14th from 1:00-4:00pm and the exhibit will run through the end of July.

Commissioner Beck reported that also on Flag Day, June 14th, there is a ceremony in Jackman Park with music and a speaker.

5. Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None

6. Old Business

Dr. Flakne reported on the Society for Ecological Restoration Conference that was held March 29th at the Chicago Botanic Garden. There were numerous field trips scheduled for tours, but due to poor weather, attendance was low.

Chairman Saunders passed along positive feedback she received about Comm. Newman's participation in the Earth Day at Tyner Center on April 18th. He reported there was a Question and Answer session regarding bike paths and he distributed stickers and bike maps to attendees. He suggested having good coordination in future bike maps for the routes in both Glenview and Northbrook, and in symbology so riders can easily match the routes up. He noted that some roads were appearing on one map and not being listed as bike routes, yet were listed as bike routes on the other town's map. There was discussion about ways to improve future maps. Comm. Beck recommended any bikers try the new 606 trail in Chicago.

Comm. Beck did Earth Day at Abt on April 19th. She had great conversation with the few individuals who stopped; however, she feels something more is needed to draw people in, so she is working on some ideas for displays. She thanked Mike Abt for all they do for The Grove and the community of Glenview.

Comm. Newman attended Arbor Day on April 24th and gave a speech. Dr. Flakne and Mr. Fickel were also in attendance with village staffers who planted the tree. Half a dozen trees were marked with tree tags for the entire third grade from Pleasant Ridge. Advance planning was done with the teachers, so the students were very engaged and excited. Chairman Saunders noted that an Arbor Day observation is part of the annual Tree City USA requirements.

Chairman Saunders reported on the Chicago River Day on May 9th and thanked those who attended. Dr. Flakne said they took advantage of getting brush cut out of the area since so much of it had been set back by the burn, so the river can now be seen. Another river work day will be held in fall.

Dr. Flakne reported that the detention basin planting behind the United Methodist Church on May 16th went very well. It was a long day, but the Eagle Scout candidate successfully completed his project by his deadline. He was estimating 20 people and ended up with over 40, and had them scheduled in slots for two hour intervals, which worked well. They planted approximately 3,000 prairie plugs behind the church in the land sold to the Village.

Chairman Saunders was very impressed with the invasive species presentation on May 19th. There were 40 people in attendance at the library for this event. She complimented Dr. Flakne for the excellent presentation and how well it was handled.

Comm. Beck noted that the phragmites behind Costco is being mowed. Dr. Flakne explained that these plants probably won't go to seed as they were cut early enough. However, the seed bank from years and years of phragmites is still there, so it is not eradication, but does address some of the problem. Hopefully the mowing will continue.

Comm. Halliday reported on the Pizzo and Associates presentation about ecological restoration. She was very impressed with the speaker's knowledge, and shared some of the information obtained.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Chairman Saunders reported that June 27 is both the first day of the Green Table at the Farmer's Market and the Summer Festival. She has not received any requests for participation from Lynne Stiefel yet. Comm. Beck thought it would be a good project to have an intern label the value of trees along the railroad tracks for viewing during the event. If anyone from the Natural Resources Commission attends, Chairman Saunders suggested distributing t-shirts from River Day and doing temporary tattoos for the children.

Chairman Saunders noted that the Blue Star Memorial Woods Tour Day, which is hosted by Friends of the Forest Preserves, is also June 27th. Their habitat restoration specialist will lead a walking tour through this forest preserve area in Glenview just south of Lake Street and east of the fire station at Wagner. Their goal is to recruit more volunteer stewards. Anyone is welcome and just needs to show up at 11:00 am that day.

Chairman Saunders stated she wrote a letter to columnist Denny Hebson at the Glenview Lantern. She suggested he go to the top of Willow Hill on a rainy day to view the Techny Basin and the amount of water it holds. She also asked him to come along on a Green Infrastructure Bike Tour.

Dates were reviewed for the Green Infrastructure Bike Tour. Dr. Flakne prefers doing a Sunday afternoon ride. It was agreed to hold this ride on Sunday, August 2nd at 1:00 p.m. She likes to have a lot of chaperones for the riders and recalled having a limit of 20 people last year and also using a wait list. Comm. Ganim suggested just opening it up to an unlimited number since so many people cancel. It was agreed to allow 25 with a wait list of 20. Comm. Beck suggested using a photo on social media to promote the tour.

Dr. Flakne reported on the Eagle Scout Volunteer Planting event behind Heinen's. The project has been on hiatus for several reasons, one being it required further review by the Village. The wall and sidewalk must be installed before the plantings, so the village recommended planting in late summer or early fall. There will be a lot of plugs going in and the project will be challenging. Comm. Beck suggested letting Friends of the Chicago River know and start some publicity.

Dr. Flakne does not yet have any information on Oaktober. Comm. Beck talked about the Chicago Regional Tree Initiative and stresses on the region's tree population. Specifically, there is a lack of oak regeneration. The Chicago Regional Trees Initiative is hoping to have the Governor sign a proclamation to celebrate Oaktober statewide to make people aware of oaks and

plant them. Dr. Flakne will be involved, as she now participates in the Chicago Regional Trees Initiative as co-chair of the Trees and Green Infrastructure group. At the summer festival on June 27th, some of the tree companies will be giving away free seedlings. Chairman Saunders suggested that Jennifer Black at the Glenview Public Library would be interested in a speaker or program about oaks.

(Comm. Chiappetta joined the group at this point.)

Chairman Saunders explained to the intern that the Farmer's Market at Wagner Farm parking lot gets about 2,000 people every Saturday. Since 2008, a table focused on sustainability is sponsored by the Village with the Park District. Chairman Saunders will check back with Comm. Ganim on dates he might be able to attend. It was noted that Dr. Flakne is scheduled for an October date.

Heritage Tree applications Dr. Flakne printed out a few applications for all members. Seven trees have been nominated from the Circles neighborhood. NRC members can receive tree measuring training with Rob Blomquist. Everyone needs to coordinate a date to coordinate with him to go out with the equipment. Chairman Saunders suggested looking to see how many of the heritage trees are oaks. It was suggested that a group picture be taken with the trees. Dr. Flakne requested she be given the dates they are going out once they are scheduled. Chris McCooey asked if just one tree is selected to be the best or if every tree that qualifies can be a winner. She was told that all of them are winners.

Dr. Flakne explained that the Chicago Wilderness is a coalition of environmental organizations and is wide open with their membership for anyone who is interested in nature or nature areas. There are over 300 organizations in the group. They are mostly volunteer driven and a great deal of time is contributed by staff members from various organizations. They have been in existence for 20 years, and have recently hired a new Director who is attempting to restructure. She is also trying to obtain outside funding to further their initiative. Comm. Beck reviewed the history of the organization and suggested the NRC continue to support it, as it has been a national model.

8. Project Updates

Dr. Flakne reported that the riverwalk behind Heinen's will be built, even though construction was suspended for a while.

Another project is CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning), who had a phone meeting with Dr. Flakne and Jeff Brady, Director of Planning for Glenview, to indicate they want to suspend temporarily the local technical assistance application asking for the ordinance review. They decided to wait until the Village's comprehensive plan update is nearing completion.

Dr. Flakne recently applied for funding to do a forest management plan. She commented that Glenview has a lot of written policies and standard operating procedures, but they are scattered and some are outdated.

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Newman moved to adjourn; Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Schultz
Recording Secretary