

**MINUTES**  
**GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**November 16, 2015**

**FINAL**

**1. Call to Order by the Chairman**

The November 16, 2015 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 Halliday, Newman, Ganim, Beck (7:55 p.m.) and Chiappetta, Dr. Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison, Roy Fickel, Public Works Director

ABSENT: None

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Saunders asked for corrections or comments to the September 21, 2015 Minutes of the Natural Resources Commission meeting. The following revisions will be made:

- Under Project Updates/CMAP: 2<sup>ND</sup> line - delete the word "on" before "ready."
- Heritage Tree Applications/2<sup>nd</sup> para: 4<sup>th</sup> line – change word "take" to "revoke."
- LAST PAGE 3<sup>RD</sup> para from bottom – Reword to read: **The NRC will consider putting its offer of participation for the Science Fair in the Business Plan.**

Commissioner Ganim moved to approve the September 21, 2015 minutes as amended. Commissioner Newman seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0.

**4. General Communications**

Chairperson Saunders received a letter from a resident asking why Glenview didn't have programs to support native plants and pollinators in yards. Chairperson Saunders invited the resident to attend tonight's meeting, but she asked that Chairpersons Saunders bring her concerns to the NRC for discussion. Chairperson Saunders stated this individual has a valid point, but there are a lot of possibilities she may not be aware of, such as the new arboretum area in Flick Park or events at The Grove. Dr. Flakne is writing a grant application that would involve students at Glenbrook South, Loyola and a school in the Albany Park area for a communication plan. This would be a very elaborate program that would require a lot of work for staff, but would provide resources to get this work done. The goal is to get restoration design done for the Baxter parcel which is five acres of open space just south of Loyola Academy athletic fields. A planned but as-yet undesigned trail could connect Willow Road

down to Chestnut and all the open space along the river. It currently dead ends at the athletic fields at Loyola. The Loyola trail is open to the public the majority of the time. Completing the trail requires that the Village get easements from a few other property owners which has held it up for quite some time.

## **5. Consideration of Cases on the Agenda**

There were no cases for consideration.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Review of recent meetings/events**

##### *Comprehensive Plan meetings and update:*

Chairman Saunders and Comm. Beck have been attending the Comprehensive Planning Meetings. The Plan for Nature is on the February 4<sup>th</sup> Agenda for discussion. Dr. Flakne stated that the current Plan for Nature is not in the same format as the Comprehensive Plan. She explained that it is available online except for the maps. Chairman Saunders would like to review the Plan for Nature in January, and felt it would be good if members could attend the February meeting.

##### *Eagle Scout Volunteer Planting Event – October 3<sup>rd</sup>:*

Dr. Flakne thanked all who came out to do plantings for the Eagle Scout project. This was the final planting that will be done along the riverwalk, and there is a contractor who will water the site.

##### *OAKtober:*

Chairperson Saunders reported that the OAKtober library event went well with a great turnout, and attendees asked excellent questions

##### *Farmer's Market Green Table:*

Chairperson Saunders reported this year's Farmers' Markets are over. The attendance was lower, at times due to weather; however, she does get good feedback from those who stop at the table. She obtained a deal with the Park District and they will now send the confirmations for speakers. Comm. Ganim asked if the NRC should reach out to the Woodworth Prairie. Chairman Saunders agreed and said that the Woodworth Prairie is looking for volunteers. She suggested getting dates out there early.

##### *Heritage Tree/OAKtober event at Circles – October 10<sup>th</sup>:*

Chairman Saunders and Commissioner Beck attended and reported it involved all ages of the neighborhood and that certificates were distributed. The press was present.

##### *Fall River Cleanup – November 8<sup>th</sup>:*

This event went well, with the Plant Earth Club sending volunteers to get a lot of brush cut. Chairman Saunders would like to reconnect with the Boy Scouts to get flyers distributed.

*CONSEG Meeting – November 10<sup>th</sup>:*

Comm. Beck attended this meeting, which focused on planning and ~~is~~ seemed connected more to the Comprehensive Plan than to the NRC's work. CONSEG meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at the Botanic Gardens. Comm. Halliday expressed an interest.

*Heritage Tree Applications:*

Two applications were received after the Circles' event was done. At the last meeting, there was discussion about having a defined application period and it was agreed that the period will be from Arbor Day to the Fourth of July. Chairman Saunders proposed doing the two that just came in, noting that it is one address with two trees. Comm. Ganim will coordinate with Rob Blomquist to get it done in December. Chairman Saunders suggested having a reporter join them.

*Project Updates:*

The Urban Forest Management Plan funding is still in a holding pattern being held up by the state budget.

*Outreach:*

Chairperson Saunders reported the Glenview Art League is interested in fashioning an art contest in which individuals submit work inspired by Glenview natural areas and pay a participation fee. The Glenview Art League would judge their work and supply a tent to display the winners. Chairperson Saunders requested input from the NRC Commissioners as to whether they felt it was worth pursuing. She suggested getting help with publicity from Lynne Stiefel, and invited Comm. Halliday to attend the next Art League meeting with her.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OAKtober proclamation 2016 Letter of Support**

The 2015 OAKtober Proclamation was signed at the last minute, and it was suggested starting a petition for the Proclamation early for 2016. There was discussion about signing Letters of Support to be sent to the Arboretum. Chairman Saunders asked the Commission to review the draft to determine if there are any revisions to the template before sending it to the Arboretum to forward to the Governor. After reviewing the letter, Dr. Flakne was asked to add a paragraph mentioning a certain number of oak heritage trees and how OAKtober is a nice complement to the ongoing Heritage Tree Program. Comm. Beck made a motion, seconded by Comm. Newman, to approve sending the amended letter signed by Chairman Saunders to the Arboretum. Motion carried 5-0.

**Park District Meeting – November 20<sup>th</sup>:**

Comm. Beck reported that there would be an Open Meetings issue if more NRC members went to the Park District Meeting. She reported that the Park District received a grant from the Park Foundation to redo the arboretum in Flick Park, which was owned by Synnestvedt Nursery. Chairman Saunders and Commissioner Beck will report back after attending the Park District Meeting; Dr. Flakne also plans to attend.

## **Business Plan 2016**

Chairman Saunders explained what the NRC does, a majority of which is done by Dr. Flakne. Dr. Flakne said she updated this Plan from previous Business Plans, so it is similar. There are a total of six goals which were reviewed by the Commission.

*Goal #1:* This is the longest goal, as it includes all the outreach to the community. Under Action Steps, where it says to “Work with schools and Scouts on projects and Programs,” one of the successes was the Science Fair. For “Work with Communications staff to develop and implement one communications campaign annually,” it was noted the NRC worked hard last year on the invasive plant species. Chairman Saunders proposed intentionally doing trees in the coming year.

Comm. Beck suggested having talking points submitted to Lynne. Whether or not they are used, she thinks this Commission should automatically send a few talking points about what has been done over the last year. Chairperson Saunders noted that the Eagle Scout project is good to highlight.

Chairman Saunders asked if the rain barrel program still exists. Dr. Flakne said the Village no longer has this program since the MWRD (Metropolitan Water Reclamation District) is going direct to consumers.

Chairperson Saunders asked if Dr. Flakne does six events annually and was informed that she does.

For the Values Project, Dr. Flakne noted that the NRC met with the organizers once or twice. Comm. Beck suggested changing the words to "that the NRC offers it to them annually," rather than saying the NRC *does* it annually. Dr. Flakne agreed to say “the Trees and Green Infrastructure group is coordinated with Chicago Wilderness and the Chicago Region Trees Initiative and is creating a traveling slide show.”

For the measure “Recruiting at minimum one business partner to support River Day or West Fork bike tour,” it was agreed to talk to the bike shop about being on the bike tour and try to get them to put a flyer in their window.

Chairman Saunders asked Comm. Chiappetta about getting a Marketing Design student to do a project about promoting oaks.

For the last measure, “Provide a presentation about NRC goals and activities to the Chamber of Commerce,” Chairperson Saunders will talk to the Chamber of Commerce to obtain their input.

### *Goal #2:*

Dr. Flakne talked about how Chicago Wilderness is more vigorous about paying the \$500 a year dues. They base it off of a formula that uses populations and other factors. Dr. Flakne has gone on their portal, which she feels is primarily used to post meetings. Chairman Saunders

commented that since the \$500 is being paid, it would be good to be able to use their portal. Dr. Flakne will look at trying to get all Commissioners on the portal.

*Goal #3:*

Dr. Flakne stated this is listed as an “as needed” item for when items are referred to the NRC that may need to be referred to the Trustees or beyond.

*Goal #4:*

Comm. Halliday would like to continue attending future CONSEG meetings. Comm. Beck felt it was valuable, as they discussed sustainability and what other communities are doing. Dr. Flakne encouraged any member who is interested in participating in the regional organization to do so.

*Goal #5:*

When the Baxter parcel gets to the design phase, the NRC Commission will review it.

*Goal #6*

No issues

All Commission members agreed this document is important to review on an annual basis. Dr. Flakne will make minor revisions and bring back in January.

**7. Adjournment**

Commissioner Ganim moved to adjourn; Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried 5-0. Chairperson Saunders adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eileen Schultz*

Recording Secretary