

MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
September 21, 2015

Final

1. Call to Order by the Chairperson

The September 21, 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: Chairperson Saunders; Commissioners Ganim, Halliday, Newman, Beck and Chiappetta, Dr. Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison, and Roy Fickel, Public Works Superintendent

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Ms. Chris McCooey, League of Women Voters

3. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Saunders asked for corrections or comments to the June 8th and July 20th Minutes of the Natural Resource Commission meeting. The following revisions will be made to the June 8th Minutes:

- Page 1 – *General Communications, 1st Paragraph*: The hyphen will be removed from the word “on-line.”
- Page 1 - *General Communications, 3rd Paragraph*: add the words “her illustrator’s” before “local chapter.”
- Page 3 – *7th Paragraph, Line 4*: Remove the words “is” and “get them to.”
- Page 4 – *4th Paragraph, Line 2*: Remove the word “her” at the beginning of the sentence.

The following revisions will be made to the July 20th Minutes:

- Page 3 – *last paragraph, Line 3*: “bioswales” is one word.
- Page 4 – *first 2 paragraphs*: The extra spaces after the hyphens will be removed.

Commissioner Newman moved to approve the March 16, 2015 minutes as amended. Commissioner Ganim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0.

4. General Communications

Chairperson Saunders reported that a communication was received from Carol Freeman, who suggested having a mowed strip in lot 16 (adjacent to the hospice facility). She feels it would make it more accessible for people to enjoy and photograph the area without causing damage to the wildlife. Dr. Flakne stated that perhaps there should be some places where things are

just left as was. She understands that Ms. Freeman would like a walking path and realizes this is done in other areas, but pointed out that there is not that much to see at Lot 16 that can't be seen from the perimeter. She also noted that it is not a restored area. Anyone who really wants to walk through there is able to do so without a mowed strip. The entire perimeter was fenced, but an entryway was left so people can enter if they so desire. Chairperson Saunders agreed to communicate to Ms. Freeman and explain these points. Another venue for residents who feel strongly about having that path is to attend the comprehensive planning meeting.

Chairperson Saunders suggested putting up a "DON'T FEED THE WILDLIFE" sign at the river path. Comm. Ganim was concerned about discouraging people from using the path. Dr. Flakne will review the signs at Gallery Park about not disturbing the wildlife before having one placed at the river path.

5. Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None

6. Old Business

Green Infrastructure Bike Tour: Dr. Flakne reported that the ridership wasn't huge, but was somewhat influential. Comm. Ganim commented about what a terrific job Dr. Flakne did with explaining everything and the various projects in the village. He suggested increasing advertising for next year. Dr. Flakne stated that it always seems to be the same number of people in attendance. She is also considering placing a sign at the bike shop and is ready to overbook if necessary.

CONSEG Meeting: Chairperson Saunders attended the September 8th meeting at the Botanical Garden, which was very well attended. The speakers were for other environmental commissions and she was allowed to speak about Glenview at the end. She learned that Evanston has a sustainability staff person and two-year fellow. Those in attendance were very impressed with the fact that the NRC's plan for nature is part of Glenview's Comprehensive Plan. Riverwoods has done a natural resources inventory and has an environmental advisor to their mayor. Chairperson Saunders spoke about what other town goals are and compared those to what Glenview does. There is another CONSEG meeting scheduled for November 10th; she will forward the notice of the topic once received.

Farmer's Market: Commissioner Halliday volunteered with Tim Joyce at this event and commented on how low the attendance is. She distributed some materials regarding invasive plants and their alternatives.

Chairperson Saunders reported that this Saturday's Farmer's Market green table will feature the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and Shane Schneider from the village.

Village of Glenview Comprehensive Plan: Chairperson Saunders reported that the Village's Comprehensive Plan meetings are scheduled for September 28, 29, 30 and October 1st. Wednesday's meeting is about natural resources and transportation. She encouraged Comm. Chiappetta to have fellow students submit comments since input can easily be done on the website.

Eagle Scout Volunteer Planting Event: Dr. Flakne is meeting with the Eagle Scout this week to finalize his plans. It sounds like he wants to split the planting events to install plugs at the river walk behind Heinen's. She does not have the exact time frames yet, but the dates are the afternoon of October 3rd and the morning of October 4th. She will try to let the Commission know once finalized.

Dr. Flakne also reported that the overall river project is nearly done, but they are not happy with some things and are meeting to talk with the landscaper regarding those issues. Overall, it is very close to completion.

Oaktober: Dr. Flakne reported the first village Oaktober event is the Green Table on October 3rd. She is currently working on a display for that table. For the October 8th talk on oaks, Comm. Beck arranged to have a shelf in the library display case and asked about including the village's "Most Innovative Forestry Program" award certificate in it. She asked if there was anything else Commission members would like to see included. Chairperson Saunders suggested including something about the heritage trees. Comm. Beck stated that John Hedrick had photos of the parkway trees in the Circles that were nominated. They had a neighborhood picnic with a display. On October 10th at 9:30am there will be a special Oaktober tree event where Chairperson Saunders will be distributing heritage tree certificates. This is an opportunity to get people interested. Chairperson Saunders asked Comm. Beck to invite the Circles residents to the Oaktober talk. She also suggested using John's photos if they were available to put in the display case.

Buckthorn Removal: Comm. Halliday mentioned they had buckthorn removal at Sleepy Hollow Park on August 8th, and Rob Blomquist brought his chainsaw. The park district was there with a full load of mulch, which the scouts shoveled on the nature trail, where the honeysuckle was trying to smother the oaks. Now there are spots cleared allowing the oaks to get some sun. Some progress was made, but there is still much to be done at this location.

Dr. Flakne reported that the village also won a tree with the certificate they were awarded from the Arboretum. She asked for input as far as what to do with it, but did not yet have any details on the type or size of the tree. She was only advised to contact the nursery to make necessary arrangements for delivery. Comm. Beck suggested planting it somewhere for the public to view with a small plaque. Mr. Fickel proposed putting it by the Public Works building where six ashes are being removed.

Fall River Clean-Up: November 8th was the date agreed upon based on all members' availability. This will be a Sunday from 9am to noon. Chairperson Saunders suggested using church youth groups to participate.

Heritage Tree applications and results: Dr. Flakne reported there were seven nominations from the Circles neighborhood and two from outside of that neighborhood. There were also an additional two nominations, so a time needs to be scheduled to see them. Comm. Ganim asked if the Commission wants to do this every time a few nominations come in or do it quarterly or even twice a year. Dr. Flakne stated they are just dribbling in unless another massive drive is done. Comm. Beck feels there should be an annual deadline for nominations and suggested having a spring and fall date. Dr. Flakne explained that it started as rolling applications accepted all year, and the volunteers would just evaluate the trees when they had enough of a batch. Chairperson Saunders suggested accepting nominations from Arbor Day through the 4th of July so they can be reviewed over the summer, and the winners could be announced in October. This will give Lynn Stiefel plenty of time to print the deadlines. Tree tags are available from the Morton Arboretum with messages including "Every tree needs a champion." Comm. Beck explained she gave some to the Grove to place on some trees for Oaktobor. She also has some for her neighborhood and gave some to Dr. Flakne. If anyone puts these tags on their tree, a request was made for photos to be sent to Melissa Custic for the Arboretum's Twitter account.

Dr. Flakne provided results from the Heritage Tree applications, noting that five of the seven from the Circles were winners. Two of them were the first of their species to be inducted into the Heritage Tree registry. There are 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners who all get certificates and letters. They will be rearranged on the data base, but they won't revoke someone's certificate if a later applicant is ranked higher. Comm. Ganim asked about the process, as he filled out the evaluation forms and feels there are a lot of questions about the tree on the evaluation form. Chairperson Saunders thanked Comm. Ganim for his assistance in measuring the trees. She felt it would be nice to talk about the award from the Morton Arboretum at the October 10th event, and Comm. Beck would like press coverage for the event.

8. Project Updates

Heinen's Project: Dr. Flakne reported this is nearly complete and the Eagle Scout planting project will be done in early October.

Urban Forest Management Plan: Dr. Flakne explained that funding for this project is on hold because Illinois still does not have a budget. Although it is federal funding, it still goes through Illinois agencies for distribution.

CMAP Project: This is another project on hold, which may require a reminder to Jeff Brady. Once the comprehensive plan is ready, this project can receive better focus. Chairperson Saunders commented that the NRC needs to think about the business plan they occasionally review and suggested going in front of the Village Trustees every third year in the spring with updates on who the NRC is and what they do. Comm. Beck talked about grant opportunities

and how the Commission does more than it would appear. Chairperson Saunders suggested putting this information in the packet for the next meeting.

Chairperson Saunders expressed concern about the detention basins at the high school. Dr. Flakne explained that the village tried to do something and applied for 319 funding; however, the application was unsuccessful. Chairperson Saunders asked about the cost to fund such a project. Dr. Flakne couldn't recall the exact amount, but she was pleased with the application. She noted that she hasn't seen a detention basin project funded for quite some time. Chairperson Saunders suggested looking for a private foundation or another entity to fund it. Comm. Beck proposed using a horticulture program or youth at risk and agreed to reach out to some of her contacts.

The NRC will consider putting its offer of participation for the Science Fair in the Business Plan.

Comm. Beck asked if there will be a dedication for the completion of the Heinen's walk. Dr. Flakne was unsure of the date it will be declared finished. Comm. Beck suggested taking photos of the work as it is being done to show the progress.

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Newman moved to adjourn; Commissioner Beck seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Schultz
Recording Secretary