

MINUTES
GLENVIEW NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
November 21, 2016

Final

1. Call to Order by the Chairperson

The November 21, 2016 meeting of the Glenview Natural Resources Commission was called to order by Chairperson Saunders at 7:03 p.m. in the Rugen Community Room at Village Hall.

2. Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum

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

PRESENT: Chairperson Saunders; Commissioners Beck, Halliday, Newman, Ganim, Chung and Dr. Flakne, Natural Resources Manager and Staff Liaison

GUESTS: George Nassos, Glenview resident

3. Approval of Minutes

The following changes were requested to be made to the September 19, 2016 Minutes:

Page 4: 2nd sentence – delete the word “there” and insert “Dr. Flakne will be leading...”

Commissioner Newman moved to approve the September 19, 2016 minutes as amended. Commissioner Ganim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0.

5. General Communications

Dr. Flakne reported the next NRC Meeting will be scheduled for January 23, 2017 due to the holiday.

6. Consideration of Cases on the Agenda

None

OLD BUSINESS

Book and Sign Update

Dr. Flakne and Commissioner Beck met with Libby Hill who is updating her book “The Chicago River: A Natural and Unnatural History” and wanted to learn what was new in the village. They received her permission to use some excerpts from her book for signs. However, there have been some issues with getting results from the sign designer. Dr. Flakne is hoping to have the design by the end of the year due to budget cutoffs. Chairperson Saunders suggested hosting a library talk when the signs come out and ask Jennifer Black to do a program on the river. Commissioner Beck commented that Ms. Hill was very pleased with what the Glenview NRC has accomplished. Chairperson Saunders noted that Ms. Hill’s book can be obtained at the library if anyone wishes to read it. She also suggested having “Friends of the Chicago River” participate at a future Green Table.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Meeting

Dr. Flakne met with Sarah Lynne Hill and had a discussion regarding the bioswales between the church's parking lot and the river, but doesn't know what the final outcome will be. She suggested they hire someone to do the initial clean-up and the remainder would just be maintenance. Commissioner Newman stated that he is on a Committee at the school and could reach out if need be.

Monarch proclamation update

Dr. Flakne reported that Glenview has fulfilled its obligations for the Proclamation, and that quarterly reports must be submitted at least during the first year. Commissioner Beck suggested doing a press release at some point to let the public know what the NRC has done. Chairperson Saunders agreed, and noted that an annual report could be prepared for the Village Board.

Dr. Flakne noted there are still monarch events planned for next year, and used the garden planned near the downtown Glenview Metra station as an example. Commissioner Beck suggested having some tabletop presentations highlighting the Monarch Proclamation and other initiatives the NRC has done and include photos. Chairperson Saunders would like to link to District 34 since butterflies is part of their curriculum.

Heritage Tree update

Dr. Flakne reported that a few trees were measured by Commissioner Newman and Rob Blomquist. Another tree is a possible nominee, but she is waiting to hear back from the owner on whether he is interested in having it nominated.

Commissioner Beck suggested that consultants come in for training so they become familiarized with the village prior to working with them.

Commissioner Beck read about an infrastructure code in Wisconsin and shared the information with Chairperson and Dr. Flakne for an upcoming webinar. She also sent the same information to CMAP and the coastal management program. CMAP is doing this and coastal management seemed interested.

Comprehensive Plan update

Chairperson Saunders asked for a status with CMAP. Dr. Flakne explained that it was set aside as Jeff Brady arranged for CMAP to put it on hold until after the Comprehensive Plan is complete. Chairperson Saunders stated that Sheboygan, Wisconsin had a presentation about shared municipal code and green infrastructure, and suggested emulating the grant they used.

Commissioner Beck reported that the Comprehensive Plan has now passed the Plan Commission and should be going to the Village Board for approval. She reported that at the last meeting, one of the Plan Commission members commented on the exceptional natural resources chapter.

Review of recent meetings/events

- Fall river cleanup
Chairperson Saunders reported the clean-up went well with approximately 20 people in attendance. She thanked Commissioner Chung for getting high schoolers to come out, as they were able to get a good amount of buckthorn down. The next clean-up is a Saturday in the spring.
- Oaktober
This was kicked off with MWRD in September with the oak saplings distribution at the Green Table; the Park District took any leftovers. Commissioner Beck noticed that a lot of people just walked by without taking a free tree. Dr. Flakne noted there was not a lot of advance notice shared with residents, but that there were a few different varieties being given away.

Chairperson Saunders stated that the tree walk went well. Commissioner Beck said there was a lot of useful information provided on the walk that was helpful to those in attendance.
- Farmer's Market Green Table
Commissioner Newman reported that there was low attendance due to rain on October 1st. Commissioner Saunders shared information about Roxanne Junge resigning from organizing the Farmer's Market, and that the Park District is in the process of filling the part-time year round position. It does involve being available every Saturday during the summer.
- Artists' Reception
Commissioner Beck and Chairperson Saunders attended and reported that the artists stood in front of their paintings at the library and spoke about them. She would like to ask Lynne if something can be shown on the TV station next year. Commissioner Halliday suggested alternating photography and art every other year. Chairperson Saunders would like to see the high school students enter the display as well. Enough money was made to purchase a tent.
- MWRD Sustainability Award
Dr. Flakne reported on the MWRD recognizing various towns for their efforts. Chairperson Saunders and Commissioner Beck accompanied her to receive the award on behalf of the efforts of the NRC. The award will be displayed in the village hall case.
- Chicago Wilderness Congress
Dr. Flakne reported a number of commissioners were able to attend. Commissioner Beck noted that it was very well organized, and that speakers were organized according to their focus areas. She explained in further detail how the Chicago Wilderness Group operates.

Planning for upcoming meetings/events

Wild Things Conference, February 18

Dr. Flakne reported that this is more oriented toward volunteers and non-professionals and is very much about hands-on things. They also make an effort to say which level each presentation will be pitched at. Judy Pollock is one of the organizers. Those signing up early are eligible for an early bird discount. If anyone wants to attend, please let Dr. Flakne know so she can register everyone together. It is held at the UIC Forum.

River Day 2017

Dr. Flakne does not have any information on this year, but will share once it becomes available.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Beck spoke about Amtrak extra railroad sidings being planned to accommodate additional trains on the Hiawatha service. One location is in Glenview at Shermer Rd. where another bridge has to be built. There are some conflicts with Amtrak, Metra and Union Pacific since they all use the same tracks at different times. Commissioner Beck was concerned about the engine fuel possibly contaminating the waterways and soil, and noted that the environmental assessment done was incomplete. She expressed several concerns with NEPA possibly being eliminated. The project is currently on pause with an extended date for public responses. Several other north shore communities will also be impacted if this happens. At the meeting she attended they said that sidings couldn't be placed too close to the Grove due to its protected landmark status.

Chairperson Saunders asked that Lynne Stiefel be in attendance at a January or March NRC Meeting. She would like to have an annual review of accomplishments presented to the Village Trustees. Dr. Flakne will add that to the Agenda.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Beck moved to adjourn; Commissioner Newman seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion carried 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Schultz

Recording Secretary