

MINUTES

COMMISSION: **Environmental** **DATE:** **6/16/09**
QUORUM: **Yes** **CALLED TO ORDER:** **7:30 p.m.**
ADJOURNED: **9:50 p.m.**

PRESENT: Chairman Marcott, Commissioners Glaza, Fairbank, Kreuzer, Neary, Rahn, Student Commissioner Kinsey, Trustee Liaison Hartweg

ABSENT: Commissioners Bateman and Pellico; Staff Liaison Denney

PUBLIC PRESENT: Missy Gettle, Glen Ellyn Resident

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Marcott called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Public Participation:

Missy Gettle, Glen Ellyn resident, presented her request for the Environmental Commission’s support for construction at her residence. Ms. Gettle had submitted a proposal to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to construct a tandem garage on her property. The ZBA narrowly denied her request. Ms. Gettle stated she requested to construct a tandem garage, in lieu of a more traditional third car stall on her garage, in an attempt to save a mature black walnut tree. If a variance is not given by the Village, she may choose to pursue construction of a third stall where the tree now stands. Following discussion, the Commission determined it would postpone rendering an opinion, pending a report from the Village Forester on the condition of the tree.

3. Approval of May 19, 2009 Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Rahn moved, seconded by Commissioner Glaza, to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2009 meeting as amended to correct the final line of Section 6 (Reports). Final line shall read: “A point was also raised that at future festival events the Village should require organizers to include recycling bins on the premises.” Motion carried unanimously.

4. Continuing Business:

a. Tree Care Committee

Commissioner Neary presented the results of the subcommittee discussion, including the potential expansion of the committee's involvement to include shrubs and perennials in addition to trees. The committee name may also be changed if shrubs and perennials are included.

Potential events discussed include: a fall program to discuss preparations necessary for spring gardens, matching plants to the environment, treatment of plants, native plants, construction impact on trees, and opportunities to view public and private gardens. There may be possible collaboration with local garden clubs, businesses, The Morton Arboretum, Sierra Club, College of DuPage, and the University of Illinois Extension, etc. Potential venues for public meetings were also discussed: the use of the Public Library for formal talks (to be videotaped and shown on GETV), and a more informal question/answer booth at the Farmers' Market, or another venue. Events could be published in the Village newsletter; Staff Liaison Denney will determine the deadline for submissions.

The Tree Care Committee is also considering coordinating restoration work in the Village with volunteers.

b. Commercial Recycling

Commissioner Kreuzer has canvassed the downtown businesses north to the railroad tracks to determine the level of interest in commercial recycling. Four businesses expressed an interest. Commissioner Kreuzer plans to canvass downtown businesses south of the tracks and businesses along Roosevelt Road. He is attempting to find eight to 10 businesses with an interest in recycling and propose a private cooperative to be run by the businesses involved. Commissioner Fairbank expressed his liability concern if the cooperative was run by the Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Glaza suggested a survey of businesses be performed. Commissioner Glaza further suggested businesses that recycle be awarded a sticker to post in their establishment to commend their recycling. Guidelines on how the stickers would be awarded would need to be determined.

c. Other

Commissioner Rahn discussed the Bike to Work promotion held on June 16, 2009. On the day of the event, the weather was poor, and few biked to work. Those who came on bikes received a canvas bag with promotional items. All interested parties received a DuPage County Regional Bikeway Map. Commissioner Rahn felt the event could have been better promoted.

DuPage County offers presentations on bike lanes and would be willing to present to the Commission.

5. New Business/ Reports

Chairman Marcott indicated the garbage contract is up for renewal next year. Allied Waste, the current hauler, would like to extend the contract for an additional two years, and in return would retrofit their trucks to have the ability to collect 65-gallon recycling carts. A discussion ensued, and a final decision was postponed until the proposed contract could be reviewed, and the results of the submission for a state grant to offset the cost of the carts would be received.

Trustee Liaison Hartweg stated the new trustees toured the Village on June 15, 2009. Included in the tour it was mentioned that 30 percent of rainwater collected goes to the Village Links. Trustee Liaison Hartweg also indicated a workshop was held on June 15 to discuss the Churchill Dam Removal. The dam will be removed to improve oxygen content in the water. Improved oxygen content is necessary for fish and other wildlife to flourish.

Commissioner Fairbanks indicated Glen Ellyn resident Jeff Gahrns has spearheaded a group called the 'Glen Ellyn Coalition to support Cool Cities'. Commissioner Kreuzer indicated Elmhurst successfully completed an inventory after a similar group formed in the city. A discussion ensued over the financial benefits of becoming more green and possible resources available to perform the inventory.

6. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next scheduled regular meeting will be held on August 18, 2009. A motion was made by Commissioner Fairbank, seconded by Commissioner Glaza, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joyce Ulrich, Environmental Commission Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:
Kristen Denney, Environmental Commission Staff Liaison