

MINUTES

COMMISSION: Environmental

DATE: 2/19/13

MEETING: Regular

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:30 p.m.

QUORUM: Yes

ADJOURNED: 9:27 p.m.

LOCATION: Glen Ellyn Civic Center

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Chairman Neary;
Commissioners Bateman, Glaza,
Koral, Kreuzer, Pellico; Trustee
Liaison McGinley; Staff Liaison
Strong

ABSENT: Commissioners Gregory,
Rahn; Student Liaison Clewlow

PUBLIC PRESENT: Public Works
Director Julius Hansen, William
Delany

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Neary called the Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., in Room 303 of the Glen Ellyn Civic Center at 535 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

2. Public Participation – NONE

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Kreuzer requested that correction be made to section 5(A) for spelling of “Gahris”, and motioned to approve the amended minutes of January 15, 2013, and Commissioner Koral seconded. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0; Commissioner Glaza abstained from the vote.

4. Announcements

Members welcomed new Commissioner Brian Glaza to the Commission.

5. New Business

A. Volcano Mulching

Public Works Director Hansen informed the group that Public Works (PW) has the tool to properly remove mulch from trees that have been poorly mulched. However, it does not get used often due to the high volume of work PW has. Chairman Neary asked when volcano flags would start to get used. She wondered if residents could

call PW for information. She also asked if the Village website was ready to disseminate useful information to direct people on the topic. Staff Liaison Strong informed the group that at the present time the website does not have any information to help residents with this but it is an easy fix. Commissioner Koral told the group she would work with Staff Liaison Strong on language for the website. Staff Liaison Strong also wanted the group to know that the volcano flag program was announced to residents in the quarterly newsletter. After much discussion, members agreed that placing the flags in yards would work best in the spring after the website has been updated. Members also discussed who would be placing the flags. PW Director Hansen said his department would really rely on the Commission to handle this. Members discussed best ways to get this done and the best people to do it. William Delany suggested using Scouts that needed service hours. Member thought this was a good idea as long as they get properly trained. Members discussed dividing the Village in to quadrants and Staff Liaison Strong said he would bring in the flags and a Village branch and brush map (which is already divided in to quadrants) for the group to possibly use.

B. Illinois Prairie Path Reforestation

Julius Hansen (and William Delany; the Eagle Scout who is going to help with this project) attended the meeting to discuss reforestation of the Prairie Path in the central business district. He informed the group that it was time for ComEd to trim the trees under the power lines. After looking at the poor condition of the trees from years of “topping” them, Public Works Director Hansen thought it would be a better idea to take the trees down and replant the area with more appropriate trees that would not require trimming. He went on to say that he has already met with representatives from both ComEd and the County about this, and they are on board. He also informed the group that the trees would be coming down very shortly and he would like to plant about 100 new trees early this spring. Much discussion was had about the project such as promotion, resident reaction, funding, etc. Members were very excited about the idea and thought it would be a win/win for both the Village and ComEd. With more appropriate trees the need for trimming would be eliminated; this would save ComEd/County money and the Village would get a more manicured Prairie Path. Director Hansen also said that the planting of the trees would be done in house to save money and he would welcome any tree choice suggestions from the Commission members. Commissioner Koral said she would be more than happy to help Director Hansen with the plan and suggest some trees that would work and best places to plant them. Members also thought it would be a good idea to identify some of these trees with signs along the path for walkers.

C. Commission Meeting Format Discussion

Commissioner Neary reviewed with the group a memorandum that was sent regarding format changes she would like to make to the Environmental Commission Agenda and ideas she had to make the meetings run smoother.

6. Subcommittee Reports

A. Recycling Subcommittee

Commissioner Pellico informed the group that he is working on finalizing vendors for the April 27 Extravaganza event. He reminded the group again that the event would be similar to last year. Staff Liaison Strong informed the group he had met with Police and they had some suggestions regarding traffic. Staff Liaison Strong stated that he will forward this to Commissioner Pellico. After some discussion members agreed to put this on the “business” portion of the Agenda for next month so it gets discussed in detail.

B. Sustainable Landscaping Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Koral informed the group that the “Invite Nature to Your Yard” event will be held on March 20, 7:00 pm at the Library. She went over some of the details of the event and reviewed some marketing ideas she had. Staff Liaison Strong informed the group that he had sent a press release to all the Chicago news outlets. Commissioner Koral also informed the group that she had been working with Jim Kleinwachter on a free consultation day in April as well. She is currently working on promotion for this, separate from the seminar.

Commissioner Koral also informed the group that the Park District will be having another Earth Day event on April 22, 2013, 7:00 p.m. at the Boathouse. She went on to say that currently the Park District is ironing out details but that the Commission was welcome to have a table during the event.

C. Energy Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Kreuzer updated the group on a Subcommittee meeting held to discuss the “Veggie Week” event concept. The group is looking to hold the event in the Fall of 2014. They will discuss in greater detail at next meeting.

Staff Liaison Strong gave the group an update on the Big Belly request. He went on to say that after doing some research he found that Waste Management has a relationship with Big Belly and some towns have been able to request that these systems be included in their contracts. His thought was to table the discussion until the Village’s current contract is up for review. The current contract expires in 2014. Commissioner Kreuzer and Staff Liaison Strong stated that they will work together on this but members thought tabling the discussion for a future meeting was a good one.

D. Communication

Chairman Neary informed the group that changes were made to the Environmental Commission’s portion of the Village website and she encouraged members to check it out if they had not done so already.

7. Chairman's Report – NONE

8. Trustee Report

Trustee Liaison McGinley informed the group that the Village is in the process of hiring an Assistant Village Manager.

9. Staff Liaison Report

Staff Liaison Strong informed the group that the Illinois Prairie Path called him looking to see if anyone would like to help with their annual clean up. He also informed the group that a resident called him asking for advice about installing a catch basin in their yard to help with flooding. Commissioner Koral suggested that the resident contact Aquascapes in St. Charles for advice.

Commissioner Koral asked if the Christmas tree lights were going to be turned off in the central business district. Staff Liaison Strong informed the group that this year the Village was going to leave the lights up along Main Street so they could be used for events throughout the year. Members thought that this was a good idea but did wonder why they are still on at night. Staff Liaison Strong stated that he will look in to this and get back to the group.

10. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next scheduled regular meeting will be held on March 19, 2013.

Respectfully submitted by:

- D'Arcy Greenleaf, Environmental Commission Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:

- Michael Strong, Environmental Commission Staff Liaison