

MINUTES

COMMISSION: Environmental

DATE: 1/15/13

MEETING: Regular

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:35 p.m.

QUORUM: Yes

ADJOURNED: 9:25 p.m.

LOCATION: Glen Ellyn Civic Center

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Chairman Neary;
Commissioners, Bateman, Koral,
Kreuzer, Gregory and Pellico; Staff
Liaison Strong; Trustee Liaison
McGinley; Student Liaison Clewlow

ABSENT: Commissioners Rahn
and Westcott

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Neary called the Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission regular meeting to order at 7:35 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 Koral pointed out an error in Section D which was then corrected. Commissioner Kreuzer moved to approve the amended minutes of December 18, 2012, and Commissioner Koral seconded. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

4. Announcements

A. Review Subcommittee Goals

Commissioner Neary reviewed a couple of documents sent to the group from Staff Liaison Strong with goals from all subcommittees. Topics discussed were no-idling and an idea Commissioner Kreuzer had for a vegetarian event hosted by Glen Ellyn restaurants. Members thought the vegetarian event was a great idea and Commissioner Kreuzer informed the group that he would set up a meeting date to discuss the event in greater detail in sub-committee.

Commissioner Gregory discussed the Communications Subcommittee goals and made suggestions for minor changes.

Commissioner Pellico stated that he felt the document accurately reflected the goals for the recycling subcommittee.

B. Big Belly

Commissioner Kreuzer went over some information about the Big Belly and informed the group that the cost for the system was about \$6,000. He stated that the cost would include both the solar recycling and solar trash receptacle. He went on to inform the group that he would like to recommend that the Village purchase 3 for the downtown business district but would start off with one. He also reviewed with the group the benefits of the system and all agreed it would be a positive purchase. Much discussion was had about cost effectiveness and most commissioners agreed that numbers needed to be looked prior to a final recommendation. Staff Liaison Strong stated that he will investigate the current Village trash/recycling costs and Commissioner Kreuzer stated that he will look into any additional monthly Big Belly costs. Members agreed to table further discussion until more information was gathered.

C. Website

Commissioners reviewed the primary language for the Environmental Commission portion of the Village Website. All agreed the language looked good and could stay as is with only a few minor changes. While discussing the list of items on the site the topic of Rain Barrels came up. Members wondered if the program should be continued. After some discussion by members, Chairman Neary stated that before agreeing to discontinue the program altogether they should review residential interest in it. All members thought this was a good idea. Commissioner Gregory made a motion to approve the Environmental Commission website text “Projects and Initiatives” as amended, and Commissioner Koral seconded. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

5. Continuing Business

A. Energy

The Commission had a discussion regarding the Village’s current budget progress, and Staff Liaison Strong stated that next year’s budget would be presented to the Village Board in the next two months. Commissioner Kreuzer stated that due to the current timeline for budget requests, the Commission should make a motion to recommend the purchase of a Big Belly compactor unit. Commissioner Kreuzer made a motion to recommend that the Village Board consider budgeting to secure funds for the purchase of a Big Belly, Commissioner Bateman seconded. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0. Commissioner Kreuzer also informed the group that Jeff Gahr had sent him quite a bit of information on Cool Cities. He stated that he will review what he has been sent and get back to the group so that they can discuss putting a detailed plan together to present to the Village Board.

B. Communication

Commissioner Gregory reviewed with the group some questions and answers she would like to put up on the Environmental Commission portion of the Village website. All agreed that the questions/answers were good ones and that the topic should be discussed in greater detail at a future meeting.

C. Recycling

Commissioner Pellico informed the group that things were going well with the Extravaganza event planning and that he will come to members if he needs any assistance. He went on to inform the group that he plans on sticking to last year's blue print.

D. Sustainable Landscaping

Commissioner Koral updated the group on the upcoming seminar. She informed the group that she has been working with Jim Kleinwachter (Land Preservation Specialist for The Conservation Foundation) and that the seminar will be called "Invite Nature to Your Yard." She stated that the event will discuss reducing water runoff, increasing wildlife habitat, reducing water and chemical use, mowing less, etc. The event will be held Wednesday, March 20 at the Glen Ellyn Library (meeting room B). Much discussion was had regarding the event, such as how residents can get their lawn certified, how best to promote the event, giving away some kind of "free-bee", etc. Commissioner Koral stated that she will look into these suggestions and get back to the group. Chairman Neary also thought it was important to let residents know that if they want their lawn certified, Jim Kleinwachter could come to the residence and personally help with this at no charge. Lastly, members discussed how to market the event and asked that it be included in the quarterly newsletter.

Commissioner Koral also reviewed with the group the rain barrel program The Conservation Foundation has and the fact that it is a partnership which the Village would contribute towards. After much discussion members agreed that The Foundation's program was a good one and they should consider doing both programs. Much discussion was had about this and the possibility of doing some kind of transition from the Commission program to the Foundation's program or both. The Environmental Commission gets \$1,000 from the Village to run the Rain Barrel Program. The group discussed reducing the amount of money reimbursed to residents for rain-barrels to \$30.00 for 25 households. This would free up the \$250.00 needed to join the Conservation Foundation's program. Commissioner Bateman made a motion to adopt a this new payment method, , and Commission Kreuzer seconded. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Chairman Neary asked about the Volcano mulching flags, when they would be used, would information on them be in the newsletter, and if houses would get tagged by Public Works. Trustee Liaison McGinley informed the group that any tree in violation should be reported to Public Works and they would inform residents about the issue. Members also discussed mulch removal and how to help educated residents about this issue.

6. Chairman's Report

Chairman Neary asked Commissioner Koral to update the group on her grass roots efforts to provide fresh vegetables to the needy; which she did.

7. Trustee Report – NONE

8. Staff Liaison Report – NONE

9. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by:

- D'Arcy Greenleaf, Environmental Commission Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:

- Michael Strong, Environmental Commission Staff Liaison