

## MINUTES

**COMMISSION:** Environmental

**DATE:** 3/19/13

**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 Leonore Neary; Commissioners Bateman, Gregory, Koral, Kreuzer, Pellico, Rahn; Trustee Liaison McGinley; Student Liaison Clewlow; Staff Liaison Strong

**EXCUSED:** Commissioner Glaza

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** NONE

### **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. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes were approved with the correction of:

- Section 6.B – Change “Free Certification Day” to “Free Consultation Day”
- Section 9 – Change “take down Christmas lights” to “turn off Christmas lights”

### **3. Public Comment – NONE**

### **4. Announcements**

**A.** Members welcomed new Commissioner Casey Baldin to the Commission.

**B.** Upcoming Events:

- i. March 20, 2013 – “Invite Nature to Your Yard” Event (7:00 pm)
- ii. April 13 - Certification Day
- iii. April 22, 2013 – Lake Ellyn Boathouse Earth Day Event (7:00 pm)
- iv. April 27, 2013 – Environmental Commission Recycling Extravaganza
- v. April 27, 2013 – Illinois Prairie Path Clean Up

## **5. New Business**

### **A. Recycling Extravaganza Event**

Commissioner Pellico gave a quick update on the event and informed members that all vendors were confirmed except one. He also handed out a current map of the event where vendors would be located and how traffic would flow. He mentioned that alkaline batteries would not be accepted but he would look to see if Batteries Plus in Glen Ellyn would take them. Discussion was also had about volunteers and best places to staff volunteers. Commissioner Rahn asked if there would be a police officer there; Staff Liaison Strong was not sure but stated he would find out. Members also reviewed the flyer for the event and some minor changes were made. Staff Liaison Strong informed the group that any changes made need to be sent to him by Wednesday, March 27. Members all agreed that things with the event seemed to be in good shape and Commissioner Pellico stated that he would finalize anything else at the next meeting; which would be the last one prior to the event. Staff Liaison Strong also stated that he will look into getting orange vests from Public Works for volunteers.

### **B. Volcano Mulching Outreach Program**

Commissioner Koral gave a Volcano Mulch update to the group. She also reviewed a map of the Village that was divided into zones to help assign Commission members to different zones; members then discussed what zones they would like to work in. Commissioner Koral also went over a “tracking sheet” created by Staff Liaison Strong to keep track of each property a flag is placed. Staff Liaison Strong asked the group if they had reviewed verbiage created for the website regarding the program. Members discussed the verbiage, and made some minor changes. Commissioner Kreuzer thought it might be a good idea if the website stated somewhere that Commission members would be doing the tagging. All members agreed this was a good idea.

## **6. Subcommittee Reports**

### **A. Recycling Subcommittee Report – NONE**

### **B. Sustainable Landscaping Subcommittee Report**

Commissioner Koral reviewed with the group some details regarding the upcoming “Invite Nature in to You Yard” event. She also updated the group on the upcoming “Certification Day” with Jim Kleinwachter from The Conservation Foundation. Jim will consult with residents who sign to help them get their yard certified as a sustainable garden. She went on to say that she would create a press release for this and send to Staff Liaison Strong.

She then went over the Rain Barrel Program The Conservation Foundation has where they partner with municipalities; this had been discussed at a prior meeting as well. She informed the group that she has been in touch with the Park District and would like to partner with them to do a Rain Barrel Event and also a native

tree and shrub sale in the fall. She told the group that nothing had been confirmed and that currently these things were just ideas being discussed. There was some discussion about this and members loved the idea of a native tree and shrub sale in the fall. All agreed that this topic should be included in the “Business” portion of the Agenda for April for further discussion.

Lastly, Commissioner Koral discussed the financial and environmental benefits of promoting residential leaf mulching. She thought it would be a good idea to let residents know there are other opportunities for them when it comes to getting rid of their leaves. A short discussion was had regarding the topic and it is decided that it should be included in the “Business” portion of the April Agenda for further discussion as well.

Commissioner Kreuzer updated members on the Prairie Path Reforestation Project going on between Prospect and Main; which is being done in conjunction with ComEd and DuPage County. Commissioner Kreuzer informed the group that he recently walked this portion of the path with Public Works Director Julius Hansen and Representatives from ComEd and DuPage County where they tagged trees that should not be cut down. Tree and shrub removal will begin next Monday, March 25 and Commissioner Kreuzer informed the group that a landscape plan for the area needs to be submitted by April 1, 2013. Commissioner Koral had offered to help create a landscape plan for this area. However, she informed the group that the job is a large one and after some consideration she felt it would be best to have a more professional plan made. She went on to say she was willing to donate her company’s services to do this if she could place a company sign up in the area. Members and Staff Liaison McGinley were thrilled that Commissioner Koral was willing to do this and they did not think a sign in the area would be an issue.

### **C. Energy Subcommittee Report**

Commissioner Kreuzer gave a Cool Cities update and told the group that he got some great information from Jeff Garish regarding next steps the Village could take to become a Cool City. He would like to meet in sub-committee to discuss this further so they can make a decision on whether to recommend that the Village try to become a Cool City to the Board. All members thought the topic should move forward in sub-committee. They also appreciate all of Jeff Gahr’s hard work in gathering information to help them make a decision. Commissioner Kreuzer also briefly went over available grants the Village could go after and a small discussion took place about them.

Commissioner Kreuzer informed the group that he spoke with Village management regarding the “Veggie Week” project and is currently waiting for feedback to see if the Commission can get backing from the Village. Clearly, if there is no support he would not move forward. He also talked about getting sponsorship for the event to help pay for services such as police overtime. Trustee McGinley informed the group that the Board is currently in the process of

approving an ordinance that will dictate fees associated with these types of events. Commissioner Kreuzer told the group he would research sponsorship further and get back to the Commission.

**D. Communications Subcommittee Report**

Chairman Gregory stated that she has been working on trying to obtain a better Commission presence at local events. She brought in a collapsible cardboard table that is easy to transport and designed for quick set up. She has a few of these desks and would be willing to use them at events. Moving forward, she stated that her idea was to pick events that the Commission would like to be at, figure out what the Commission would like to promote at these events and be there to answer any questions. She stated that she sees this as a type of community outreach and believes if enough events are attended the Commission could increase its visibility. Much discussion was had regarding this and various ideas were shared. Members thought it was a great idea that should be utilized. In closing Commissioner Gregory stated that it was a work in progress but she would be at the “Invite Nature to Your Yard” seminar tomorrow as a first step.

**7. Other Business - NONE**

**8. Chairman’s Report – NONE**

**9. Trustee Report**

Trustee Liaison McGinley informed the group that the Village has hired an Assistant Village Manager. She also updated the group on the budget discussion the Board is having and the fact that they are not budgeting for any Big Belly trash receptacles/recyclers. She also informed the group that they are budgeting \$47,000 for flowers and planting in the downtown area. She thought that maybe the group could come up with some creative ideas to lower this cost. Members agreed that they would like to look in to this.

**10. Staff Liaison Report**

Staff Liaison Strong informed the group that the preliminary Streetscape plan would be presented tomorrow night, March 19. He also informed the group that John Norton will be at the “Invite Nature in to Your Yard” seminar to video tape it in hopes of posting the video on the website.

**11. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment**

With no further business, Chairman Neary asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pellico motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Bateman. The motion passed unanimously. The next scheduled regular meeting will be held on April 16, 2013.

Respectfully submitted by: D’Arcy Greenleaf, Environmental Commission Recording Secretary

Reviewed by: Michael Strong, Environmental Commission Staff Liaison