

MINUTES

COMMISSION: Environmental

DATE: 08/16/16

QUORUM: Yes

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:36 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 10:23 p.m.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:

Chairman Adam Kreuzer;
Commissioners, Adrienne Gregory,
Mike Malone, David Meehan,
Thomas Pulver, Jennifer Umlauf,
Andrew Van Gorp, John Zelasco,
Kathryn Meigel; Trustee Liaison
Mark Senak, GE Park District
Liaison Renae Frigo, Staff Liaisons
Brendon Mendoza & Albert
Stonitsch

EXCUSED: Student Commissioner
Christina Sedal

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jan Roehll,
Director of the Conservative
Foundation DuPage Co Program

1. **Call Meeting to Order** –
Chairman Kreuzer called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. in Room 301 of the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.
2. **Public Participation** – See New Business (A)
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – None to approve, staff will email out this week to review.
4. **Announcements**
5. **New Business** –
 - A. **Conservation in our Community** Commissioner Andrew Van Gorp handed the floor to Jan Roehll, Director of The Conservation Foundation (“TCF”) in DuPage County, who was present to talk to the Environmental Commission (“EC”) about Conservation in Glen Ellyn. The overall goal of TCF is to increase local community-based conservation initiatives in DuPage County, enabling each community to make conservation part of its culture and core value. Two years ago TCF received a grant from the DuPage Foundation. The grant is to get more in-depth with communities; presently working with Carol Stream, Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Naperville & Warrenville. The first step is to

meet with staff, and ask if there is something in your community TCF can help you with. A few examples that they have assisted with are river sweeps, plant sales, and a pollinator gardens “stations”. Jan Roehll, stated the goal is to allow residents to become increasingly involved by interacting with their environments. TCF would help communities implement a program that communities don’t have time for. TCF is also working with vendors with a low profile native prairie meadow mix, which takes some maintenance, 2-3 years to grow, which would reducing mowing costs. TCF is expanding to work with Lisle and Wood Dale. Working closely with Village staff or commissions, they find is most successful. Trustee Liaison Senak asked if TCF is looking for additional funding from Villages? TCF stated that they require Villages to contribute \$1,000.00 annually for the initiatives entailed within TCF. Chairman Kreuzer, thought the Village would be interested in the meadow mix and reducing the Village’s mowing expenses. Commissioner Meigel, stated the benefits pertaining to the reduction of chemical / pesticides use, with schools, the Village, and residents too. She believes the elementary schools are a great place to start and a great opportunity for children and the schools.

Chairman Kreuzer stated that the Environmental Commission would be willing to participate in an opportunity to decrease in pollutants that ultimately end up in the Village’s storm water facilities.

TCF works closely with the DuPage County Storm Water Management, which founded the DuPage River Salt Creek Work Group that is actively working to reduce pesticides in the water.

Chairman Kreuzer requested Jan Roehll to send the various benefits of the TCF partnership; conversion of mowed vs. pollinator / native plants 2-3-year savings, return on investment, and grants that will be available, to be included in a future presentation to the Village.

6. Old Business

A. Village of Glen Ellyn Volunteer Stewardship Pilot Program at Lambert Lake
Liaison Mendoza developed a pilot stewardship proposal to occur at Lambert Lake with Commissioner Van Gorp and Golf Course Superintendent Chris Pekarek. Liaison Mendoza discussed the scope of the pilot program with the group. Points of consideration include; identification cards for volunteers, liability waivers, administration of the program, solicitation of volunteers, and appointing an EC Commissioner as a primary steward to ensure long-term commitment to secure the program. Commissioner Van Gorp is the site Steward at Churchill Woods Forest Preserve, a similarly modeled stewardship program. Commissioner Van Gorp stated that he is responsible for training volunteers, planting native seeds, and pollinators. Staff Liaison Mendoza recommendation that the Environmental Commission motion to approve Village staff recommendation of the Lambert Lake Stewardship Pilot Program. Commissioner Pulver motioned that the EC approve the recommendation of the Lambert Lake Stewardship Pilot Program. The motion was second by Commissioner Zelasco. The motioned passed unanimously.

B. Village of River Forest Healthy Lawns Healthy Family Initiative

Commissioner Meigel discussed the current status of her research, which included creating a mission statement and believes the 1st phase is: understand the current lawn care plan and policy in place for Village of Glen Ellyn, Village Park District, District 41, COD, and District 87 what they do, if they have an IPM in place. 2nd step is to employ the Midwest Pesticide Action Center, to facilitate communication with these organization, read through their plans, recommend changes, and resubmit to the organizations and work with them to explore opportunities to reduce pesticide use. Commissioner Meigel mentioned that River Forest has five parks completely organic, the schools went organic in 2015, and that there are signs up to spread awareness along with increasing resident participation. Commissioner Meigel also mentioned that Elmhurst is doing a pilot at the Van Voorst Park which 2.9 acres of the park as pesticide free. Commissioner Meigel spoke with the principal at Ben Franklin Elementary, who put her in touch with the staff member who maintains the landscaping for all of Dist. 41. He said the schools since 2012 are down to one application a year. Chairman Kreuzer suggested identifying pilot parks, buildings. Commissioner Malone agreed the schools are a good place to start, gathering participation from students, parents, young parent clubs, PTA as they are good network opportunities

Commissioner Gregory discussed the Green Apple Nationwide event on September 24 to take place in schools. This is an event where people would be a mentor for a day in schools, for an environmental project. Commissioner Gregory stated this would be great in with the relationship of PBL projects. Commissioner Gregory is really interested in it and is doing it on food waste project. Through discussion the group decided it this was an initiative for the Health & Wellness Subcommittee and agreed to get this under this committee.

7. Subcommittee Reports

A. Recycling Subcommittee Report - NONE

B. Health, Wellness & Transportation Subcommittee Report -

Commissioner Pulver - stated that the HWT Subcommittee have not met recently, but have received information on bicycle paths. DuPage County has developed a trail that used to be called the East Branch Greenway Trail, connecting through Churchill Woods to the Great Western Trail and Prairie Path. Their plan calls for no highway or road use. Commissioner Van Gorp believes the Village needs to take an active role, potentially beneficial to our Central Business District to bring the bike trail from Churchill Woods through our downtown. The Village will look into this.

Commissioner Gregory – stated that Divvy received negative reaction from people as many of bicycles in the rack are broken. Commissioner Gregory suggests tapping into bike shops in the area, neighboring villages, to pair with each other on the trail and create a bike rental program.

Commissioner Meehan - provided an update on Divvy. Commissioner Meehan spoke with Shawn Weidel from the Dept. of Transportation for Chicago that over sees the Divvy Program and works with a 3rd party contractor called Motivate International. The city owns

the bikes and racks and Motivate runs operations. Divvy is currently not interested in coming to Glen Ellyn. Mr. Weidel stated he will bring our request to his committee to discuss. Commissioner Meehan will follow up with Mr. Weidel.

C. Sustainable Landscaping Subcommittee Report - NONE

D. Arts & Outreach Subcommittee Report -

i) Commissioner Gregory Mural approval postponed

Trustee Liaison Mark Senak states the budgeting for next year begins in September, the idea was to include that as budget request, a line item in next year's budget. He stated there is some Village Board concerns for the overall dollar amount.

Chairman Kreuzer believes an EC budget of \$10,000 - \$15,000 is annually justified.

Trustee Liaison Mark Senak stated the EC request is constructive but, the success of that will be contingent upon whether you can tie the dollar amount the Commission is asking for, to specific initiatives, and if specific initiatives can be tied to a strong economic development component.

Chairman Kreuzer strongly states the Environmental Commission does not want the Village Board taking advantage of all of the hard work on the development of the DuPage Foundation. The Environmental Committee wants to fund initiatives that the Village does not want to fund. Chairman Kreuzer would like Trustee Liaison Mark Senak and Assistant Village Manager Al Stonitsch to express the concerns the Commission has back to the Village.

ii) Commissioner Gregory discussed the Film Festival. Commissioner Gregory discussed locations such as Glenbard West, which provides a theatre atmosphere, or the Boathouse so it has a Glen Ellyn feel to it. The Civic Center Gymnasium was also suggested, however it is not a theatre and a theater atmosphere would have to be created. The event occurs March 15 through March 17, all over Illinois.

iii) Commissioner Gregory discussed the Green Apple project and if anyone would be interested in volunteering at a school on Friday, September 23rd as a mentor for one of the grade schools.

iv) Commissioner Umlauf discussed potential for the south corridor along the UP tracks. The task is to figure out what kind of Village codes regulate or recommendations the Village has regarding the appearance of these buildings. The commission would like to take on a site development plan that works with the current Village codes and policies.

The group stated it will work with Village Staff to come up with a plan of action.

8. Other Business – Commissioner Andrew Van Gorp

- i) Citizen Participation Institute – there are vacancy seats opening on the board. If interested, to start petitioning next month.
- ii) Sustain DuPage first coalition meeting is Saturday, August 27, 2016 from 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM, in the Clayton Room in the Glen Ellyn Civic Center. All are invited; the goal of Sustain DuPage is to have Environment Commissions in all 37 municipalities.

9. Chairman Report - NONE

10. Trustee Liaison Report – Trustee Liaison Mark Senak

- i) The Strategic Plan of the EC was approved by the Village Board.
- ii) Village workshop replacement of downtown light fixtures to be replicas current light fixtures, dark sky compliant, but modifiable to make them non-dark sky compliant, e.g. Central Business District, LED. Samples at Main & Crescent.
- iii) Salt Dome – Lambert Lake. Asked everyone to read memo in the July 18, 2016 Village agenda package. It provides a diagram of potential sites where salt domes will be located. There are 6 sites proposed in proximity of Lambert Lake

11. Staff Liaison Report - NONE

12. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next scheduled regular meeting will be held on September 20, 2016

Respectfully submitted by: Recording Secretary, Victoria Ciucci

Reviewed by: Administrative Intern, Brendon Mendoza