

**DRAFT**

**Glen Ellyn Park District  
Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2016  
6:30 p.m.  
Spring Avenue Recreation Center**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Members present were Co-Chairman Kathy Cornell, Co-Chairman Julia Nephew, Dawn Pierce-Bley, Gail Bode (departed at 7:00pm and came back at 7:40pm), Janet Kuefler, Carrie O'Halloran; Kaaren Oldfield (departed at 8:05pm), Kayla Wheeler, Andrew Van Gorp (arrived at 6:45pm).

Member not in attendance was Diane Padilla-Sup (excused)

Staff present was Naturalist Renae Frigo, Superintendent of Parks and Planning Dan Hopkins, Executive Director Dave Harris.

**Motion:** Van Gorp moved, seconded by Bode to put aside formal meeting protocol under Roberts Rules of Order. It was unanimously approved by the entire committee through a voice vote.

**Committee and Staff Introductions**

Committee members and staff provided brief introductions

**Environmental Advisory Bylaws**

Naturalist Frigo reviewed the bylaws which were provided in the orientation packet. The bylaws were adopted several years ago at the recommendation of the internal staff environmental committee. The bylaws were based on the Illinois Association of Park Districts (I.A.P.D.) recommendation which had developed a set of criteria which could be used by their members. Glen Ellyn Park District did so but modified to be specific to Glen Ellyn.

**Environmental Policy Highlights**

The purpose and mission statement was provided. Member Van Gorp inquired about whether the mission statement within the by-laws was specific to the Environmental Committee. Naturalist Frigo confirmed that it was.

Naturalist Frigo then reviewed the six (6) policies providing highlights and efforts expended implementing each policy. They were as follows:

**Policy 1: Purchase & Use Environmentally Safe and Sensitive Products**

- Switched to Green Seal cleaning products at most facilities
- Switched to unbleached paper towels in some facilities
- Exploring options to phase out polystyrene use at concession stands
- Encourage the conservative use of paper

**Policy 2: Wise Use and Protection of Natural Resources**

- Recycle and properly dispose of all vehicle fluids and equipment parts
- Increased use of native and drought-tolerant plants in landscapes
- Dual flush toilet handles installed in most facilities for reduced water use
- Shrubs and perennials are transplanted when their removal is needed for projects
- Awarded IGIG grant to upgrade Ackerman Parking lot with permeable pavers in 2014
  - Harris updated the status of the grant as it was placed on hold by Governor Rauner. The District has remained in contact with its state representatives and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and still remains optimistic that the funds will be released. Several members of the committee suggested informing the community of the status through eblasts, onsite posters and website.

**Policy 3: Wise Use of Energy Resources**

- Computer controls and energy efficient lighting installed at Village Green in 2010
- Old boiler & heating at SARC replaced w/energy efficient model in 2010
- Over 300 light bulbs removed from areas with natural light in 2011
- LED/CFL lighting and motion sensors installed at several facilities & parking lots
- Reduced mowing by 4.4 acres in 2013
- LEED designed Lake Ellyn Boathouse renovations in 2016
  - Hopkins discussed in greater details the various items including solar panels, high efficiency hvac, and irrigation utilizing lake water, rain gardens, and permeable pavers. District is hopeful of attaining Gold level and received a grant that funded the items mentioned previously

**Policy 4: Reduction and Handling of Waste**

- Additional recycling bins added to facilities and parks
- Provided household battery recycling collection in 2011, 2012
- Partner with Elgin Recycling to collect and recycle holiday lights
- Utilize woodchips generated by storm/insect/diseased trees for mulching
- ~100 tons of asphalt grindings were added to gravel parking lots in 2011
- Straw bales from Newton sledding hill reused for mulch at garden plots
- Autumn leaves collected and tilled into soil at garden plots
- Promoted less plastic water bottle use from coaches & within preschool rooms
- Added drinking fountains that allow for water bottle refilling at Ackerman and FJC
- Soap dispensers replaced with foam – less product used
- Repurpose baseball in-field mix

- Partnered with SCARCE to offer pumpkin composting in 2015

**Policy 5: Open Space Planning and Preservation**

- Develop and implement management plans for park natural areas (Ackerman, Churchill, Danby, Gault Bird Sanctuary, Glen Ellyn Manor, Lake Ellyn, Lake Foxcroft, Maryknoll, Walnut Glen)
- Provide access and enhance awareness of such sites
- Seek relationships with preservation organizations to assist in open space and natural habitat preservation
- Protect streams, lakes, & wetlands
- Use native shrubs, trees, grasses and flowers within parks and near facilities
- Recruit and retain volunteers to assist with restoration efforts

**Policy 6: Environmental Education and Interpretation**

- Offer public programs that enhance residents' relationships with the natural world (preschool visits, youth-family-adult programs, and special events like Earth/Arbor Day)
- Develop environmental education programs for schools and groups
- Promote leisure activities that minimize environmental impact (Trails & Trivia)
- Create demonstration gardens and landscapes (Lake Foxcroft sign bed, butterfly garden at Maryknoll, garden plot at Village Green)
- Involve youth and the community in the restoration efforts and awareness

**Comments/Discussion**

Committee members discussed the following items:

- Emerald Ash Borer disease and how many trees have been removed, replaced and treated. In 2013, 247 ash trees were present on District property excluding natural areas. Since that date, over 200 trees have been planted, 158 have been removed/died and 66 were treated with 53 still living and continuing to receive treatment.
- What is a quarantine zone? An area where the firewood cannot be transported beyond
- Can the mulch from the diseased trees be used? Yes, within Northern Illinois
- How to attract more volunteers? Park stewards similar to Forest Preserve. The Village is beginning a similar pilot program for Lambert Lake. Look into service groups, high school clubs, and "adopt-a-park".
- Collaboration with Village. Frigo serves on the Village Environmental Committee as does Van Gorp
- Three possible ideas raised for the committee is to serve as field representatives, be a focus group / create task force as needed and directed regarding specific items and provide a "think tank" to brainstorm ideas and determine what the community wants and expects.
- Improved education and marketing opportunities for the District's efforts regarding items such as the natural area at Lake Ellyn Park, IGIG grant,

volunteer opportunities, etc.? An idea was suggested to create a sidebar on website or eblast with a question and answer specific to a particular topic.

- How to distinguish and encourage proper use of recycling containers?
- Educating athletic teams and preschool classes. Was done years ago but should be done annually.
- Future meeting materials should be provided electronically.
- Look into BuzzFeed style videos which are very short (1-2 minutes) showing a burn, natural area, work day, butterfly gardens, etc.
- Using the Park District 501©3 foundation to raise funds and awareness in environmental efforts

### **Conclusion**

Park District Commissioners and staff expressed their appreciation for the member's willingness to volunteer their time to serve on the committee. The next meeting will most likely be in January, 2017. In the meantime, please feel free to contact staff with questions, suggestions or concerns. Staff contact information will be provided to each member of the committee.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, Member Van Gorp moved, seconded by Member Bode to adjourn the Meeting at 8:15 p.m.

*Roll Call: Aye: Members Van Gorp, Bode, Pierce-Bley, Kuefler, O'Halloran, Wheeler,  
Nay: None.*

*Motion Carried.*