

**Glen Ellyn Park District  
Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting  
January 19, 2017**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM

**Roll Call**

Members present were Co-Chairman Cornell and Co-Chairman Nephew; Dawn Pearce Bley, Gail Bode, Janet Kuefler, Kayla Wheeler

Members not in attendance were Diane Padilla Sup, Carrie O'Halloran, and Andrew Van Gorp (all excused)

Staff present was Naturalist Renae Frigo, Superintendent Dan Hopkins, and Director Dave Harris

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

Member Bode requested that staff send the original power point presentation from the September 2016 meeting.

**Approval of September 15, 2016 meeting minutes:** Minutes from the September 15, 2016 were approved as long as they were updated with the "missing" ash tree number from the comments section. Information is as follows and will be added to the minutes

- in 2013, 247 ash trees present (not including natural areas)
- 158 have been removed/died
- 66 were originally treated, of those 53 remain and will continue to receive treatment

Going forward, meeting minutes will be sent as a draft soon after the meeting, and then officially approved at the next scheduled meeting.

**Updates on discussion from September 15, 2016 meeting:**

**Recruitment of new volunteers**

The new **Glen Ellyn Stewardship Alliance** partnership with the College of DuPage and Forest Preserve District of DuPage County kicked off on January 7<sup>th</sup> at Churchill Woods Forest Preserve. Essentially, there are several natural areas in the Glen Ellyn community that utilize volunteer help for maintenance. The Park District is working with staff and volunteer stewards of these natural areas to share resources, volunteers, knowledge/techniques, jointly promote one another, and work to build a social network of volunteers who enjoy doing ecological restoration work. A schedule was established, joint work days will be held from 9 – Noon on the first Saturday of the month, and sites will be rotated throughout the year. Renae Frigo attended the January work day – and had the opportunity to talk about restoration efforts on Park District property and encouraged 15 volunteers present to consider attending the Feb 4<sup>th</sup> cooperative effort that will be hosted by the Park District at Churchill Park.

Since the group last met, a new Park District website was launched. It provides easier navigation for people learn of ways they can get involved with volunteering, including working in the parks. The new format of the website also has the monthly restoration work days included in the listed activities.

#### **Collaboration Efforts w/Village**

A joint partnership with The Conservation Foundation – CF will provide various services for both entities in 2017 related to conservation and education outreach and efforts. Kick-off will include a workshop (3/15 @ 7:00 PM, Civic Center) for the community on making your yard more sustainable, including information on native plants, supporting pollinators & wildlife, lawn care, and stormwater issues

A joint Earth Day/Recycling Extravaganza event will take place on 4/22 as the Park District will be collaborating with the Library, Chamber of Commerce, and local environmental groups.

#### **Efforts to Improve Marketing**

The District is looking into what it takes to create 30-60 second videos (software, camera needs, etc.) Ideally we have supporting literature/links/PDF's available that people can access as part of the video/announcement.

Increasing presence at Public Events like the Cardboard Boat Regatta and Touch a Truck

Collect emails from environmental events like Earth Day and restoration days.

#### **Recycling Efforts**

Plans are to go with a more uniform trash/recycling can system for indoor and in parks. Receptacles are expensive, so an annual budget and replacement plan should be enacted to begin the transition – include inventorying what exists, need for additions/replacements

Finish labeling the blue cans that are primarily found at Ackerman Park (3/4 are labeled)

Work with athletics supervisors to send a PDF to coaches, encouraging players to use re-usable water bottles and using correct receptacles at facilities

### **Park District Foundation**

If the groups wants to identify an environmental project that could use funding, the project should be outlined and presented to the Foundation for consideration.

### **DuPage Monarch Project**

The DMP approached the Park District asking us to make an official Resolution to help with monarch population recovery efforts, specifically providing habitat and providing educational outreach. The Resolution will be presented at the 2/7 Board Meeting.

### **Pesticide Free Park Pilot Request**

The Park District received a request from the Village's Environmental Commission, requesting that a pledge be taken to designate a pesticide free park test site. No harmful chemicals would be used and staff would manage weed and pest problems with cultural and mechanical controls, including mowing at higher heights, aerating, over-seeding and physical weed removal. Staff is working to identify a park and determine the best schedule and costs associated with implementing the request.

### **Discussion Points**

The group discussed different groups that we could contact for volunteer recruitment, including:

- Environmental clubs at School District 41 schools
- Eco club, Key Club, and other Service Clubs at the high schools
- Church youth groups
- Churchill School has "Fifth Grade Gives Back" program
- Scout groups at the public and Catholic schools
- NIU extension
- Arborist group
- Tree Keepers (new program, Morton Arboretum is one of the facilitators)

Contacting these groups this year can be a goal, but immediately – members agreed to reach out to a few for the upcoming 2/4 work day. A flyer was created and sent to St. Pet's youth services and Faith Formation staff, three Churchill School teachers received the flyer, and possibly others.

Volcano Mulching was discussed. The Conservation Foundation provided an informational brochure on the negative effects caused by this practice. Having the PDF posted on website is planned.

Reducing stormwater entering Lake Ellyn was discussed. Ideas of including rain gardens in parkways should be initiated by the Village. Maintenance issues associated with that, but perhaps the Environmental Commission could be asked to pursue. Perhaps could involvement with high school students.

League of Woman Voters may be interested in some of the Conservation Foundation community initiatives.

The Village's electronic message board should be used for some of the mentioned events

Having pictures or labels on recycling cans should help patrons recycle more

Water testing for lead now required for schools and day care facilities. Samples should be sent to certified company for analysis. Janet Kuefler will send more details of the program.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM