

**Glen Ellyn Park District
Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
March 9, 2020
6:30 PM
Spring Avenue Recreation Center**

MINUTES

- I. Meeting Called to order at 6:37pm
- II. John Bower, Jacquelyn Casazza, Commissioner Cornell, Remic Ensweiler, Executive Director Harris, Christina Keasler, Carrie O'Halloran, Commissioner Nephew, Parks Project Manager Troia and Natural Areas Manager Frigo present. Absent were Janet Kuefler and Kay McKeen.
- III. Introductions
- IV. Approval of Minutes from 10/26/19. Bower motioned; Nephew seconded.
- V. Identified 2020 Goals/Plans
- VI. Topics of Discussion were based on staff identified 2020 Environmental Goal

Plant-based herb trials

Explained how/where these herbicides will be used and tested. Recommendation of notification flags that state herbicide is plant-based and more eco-friendly.

Installation of permeable pavers and bioswale at Ackerman softball hub

Director Harris explained how water has been an on-going issue Ackerman Park, particularly with the lower hub area. The pavers, swales, and better drainage system should both alleviate the problem and serve as a model for incorporating additional green infrastructure into future projects.

Install rain barrels at Maryknoll Clubhouse & work towards Water Flag through SCARCE

Two rain barrels will be installed at the clubhouse. If they fill too fast and cause drainage issues, we will reconsider. As part of earning the Water Flag, rain barrel installation and/or education is a requirement. The Park District promotes and sells rain barrels at the Earth Day Fair as well.

Conduct an energy audit at a Park District facility

Manager Troia shared that ComEd will provide energy audits, and that the District plans to utilize this service at the Frank Johnson Center to identify improvements that could be incentivized through ComEd programs.

Create guidelines for reduced waste as part of special events

The 2020 Earth Day Fair will feature waste stations that require patrons to sort their trash before disposing. Another requirement of food vendors is to serve food with compostable service ware (plates, utensils, etc.). Conversation lead to what could be done at other special events, such as no Styrofoam allowed by any Food Trucks at events such as the Cardboard Boat

Regatta, and asking vendors coming to Movies in the Park to use more eco-friendly products. Encouraging people to bring reusable water bottles, or selling them at events, such as Earth Day, that could be filled at the water station and kept for future use. If July 4th event, would have to approach that organizing committee. Perhaps giveaways/raffles at Sunset Special days could be more environmental/reusable.

Host a sport's clothing and equipment swap

Explored the idea of hosting a swap. Gently used equipment, approaching from the green/repurposing goal compared to a fundraiser opportunity, at least the first offering. To narrow down scale, perhaps offer in the Fall with specific sports identified. Or focus on a few sports with the most participants to ensure success. People would register or guidelines posted as to acceptable items and condition. Ticket/voucher idea...donate 5 shoes to swap, get 5 tickets to use. Would need a lot of volunteers – perhaps COD eco-club, high school sports teams, partner with Athletic Advisory committee. Need to line up organizations/businesses that would take left over goods (Play it Again Sports, Savers, Good Will, Salvation Army). If money collected in future, could go towards Friends of the Parks/Scholarship fund.

Offer Sustainable Garden Tour, Gardening for Pollinators Workshop, Tree Sale, improved Forest Therapy Walks

Discussion focused around Forest & Nature Therapy walks. Possibly partner with library for a staff experience/retreat, expand to a public offering (no cost). Look to advertise those in Natural Awakenings publication. Other ideas included market with Village of Glen Ellyn as part of their Wellness offerings for employees. High school offerings for stress reduction. College of DuPage offers Meditative Walks – possible partnered offering. Idea of doing Family Forest Therapy Walks.

Expanded Garden Plot efforts

Explained efforts to improve the site and the social culture were shared. Hoping to partner with COD's Fuel Garden and Pantry on a few ideas.

Tree survey, tree guide, and tree/plant interpretation at Lake Ellyn

Lake Ellyn Park trees will be surveyed soon. Based on survey, a phone app-based guided tree tour will be developed as well as physical tree tags on prominent representative trees around the park's walking paths.

VII. Committee Suggestions

- Look at Dark Sky Compliant lighting and fixtures in parks. Possibly participate in Earth Hour 2020 on 3/28 from 8:30 – 9:30PM
- Use Earth Day Fair as example of reducing waste at a special event, specifically requesting patrons to bring their own water bottles or have reusable ones to purchase and fill on-site.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm