

**Glen Ellyn Park District
Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
October 23, 2019
6:30 PM
Spring Avenue Recreation Center**

MINUTES

- I. Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm
- II. Roll call – present included: Gail Bode, John Bower, Janet Kuefler, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Nephew, Director Harris, Parks Project Manager Troia and Naturalist Frigo
- III. Approval of 3/12/19 meeting minutes
- IV. Discussion of increasing committee members, currently at four members, ideally have seven to nine according to the by-laws. Names were suggested. Staff will reach out to several to gauge their interest and possibly post the positions publicly.
- V. Update of 2019 green efforts, projects and programs
 - a. Earth Day 2020 will include all aspects of the 2019 event that was cancelled due to inclement weather.
 - b. An update of the 2019 Environmental Goals reached this year, includes switch to reduced use of straws and lids, at concessions, use of paper straws, and offering more composting opportunities during events.
 - c. Program updates
 - Native tree sale: 125 items sold, more than other municipalities offering similar sales
 - Sustainable yard tour: ~45 attended
 - Summer camp statistics: ~200 campers attended nature-based camps
 - Volunteer stats: an estimated 350-400 people have volunteered at ecological restoration workdays and trash clean-up events
 - d. Greener Glen Ellyn Facebook was launched early summer
 - e. Ackerman Park projects update – Manager Troia and Director Harris provided an update of the new features being installed, including walking paths, outdoor fitness station, improved drainage, artificial turf field, lighting, irrigation, permeable pavers in the softball hub, and creation of bioswales.

- f. *Egeria densa*, Brazilian elodea, is an aquatic weed that was discovered in Lake Ellyn last summer. The Park District has worked with McCloud Aquatics to find the best solution to treating this weed safely, yet aggressively due to its invasive nature. Herbicide applications were applied in September with good results. Staff and McCloud technicians will continue to monitor its presence going forward.

VI. Committee suggestions

- a. Posting a listing of LEED certified features of the Lake Ellyn boathouse, possibly in the main entrance hallway of the boathouse.
- b. Consider a campaign aimed at Park District sports teams and coaches, encouraging athletes to reduce use of plastics and to clean-up after events to keep the parks clean and support efforts to reduce waste and recycle. In addition, consider an 'opt out' option on registration forms for races and tournaments that give away items like trophies and t-shirts. Some people may not want these. Logistically, items need to be ordered and made prior to registration deadlines, so estimate quantities of giveaways may not always be accurate. There also could be some administration challenges with monitoring those finer details. Suggestions will be presented to the Athletics Advisory Committee for feedback.
- c. Post more environmental factoids and suggestions on Greener Glen Ellyn Facebook
- d. Consider reaching out to AMP (Association of Music Parents) at Glenbard West High School to recruit volunteers to clean up after football games. Many of the concession items sold at the games end up blowing into Lake Ellyn.
- e. Suggestion to post a 5-minute video segment on Greener Glen Ellyn Facebook related to controlled burns. Specifically, one created by Channel 11's Jay Shefsky.
- f. Consider adding bat houses to parks. The GEPD does have a few houses that were made by school district 41 students. Free standing posts or mounted on buildings is the best approach to avoid predation (no tree mounts). Posts and hardware need to be purchased, houses mounted, holes dug and erected in appropriate locations. Along woodland edges in natural areas would be best locations. Four houses are already in place at Churchill Park. We have four more.
- g. Measures to decrease use of paper were discussed, such as no excess copying, use of tablets, making double-siding multiple copies, and use of recycled content paper.

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 8:16