

**Glen Ellyn Park District  
Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting via Zoom  
September 9, 2020  
6:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM
- II. Members Jacquelyn Casazza, Christina Keasler, Jean Kent, Janet Kuefler, Carrie O'Halloran, Commissioner Nephew and Commissioner Cornell were present via Zoom  
  
Manager Frigo, Manager Troia and Director Harris were present via Zoom.
- III. Approval of Minutes from 3/9/2020
- IV. Director Dave Harris provided an update on Park District's response to COVID-19 and the status of operations. He highlighted that the District refunded patrons nearly 1.5 million dollars in cancelled program fees and reminded the committee that approximately 55% of District revenue is generated through user fees. The District has been proactive in opening facilities, fields and programs that align to national and state recommended health and safety guidelines.
- V. Status of the identified Environmental Goals for 2020
  - a. Plant-based herbicide trials – staff have tried two different products. One works better, one has had poor performance. As more products become available, the District will continue to try more environmentally friendly alternatives.
  - b. Installation of permeable pavers and bioswale at Ackerman softball hub – Manager Troia summarized the green infrastructure components of this project. Staff will monitor the performance of the pavers and bioswale over the next year. SCARCE representative Jean suggested highlighting green features as part of a guided tour in the future.
  - c. Install rain barrels at Maryknoll Clubhouse – due to COVID, this effort has been delayed.
  - d. Conduct an energy audit at a District facility – Manager Troia stated that Sunset Pool and Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center were audited by a ComEd representative. Many ideas were shared on possible improvements, including installing smart sensors that can adjust room lighting to coincide with natural lighting changes throughout the day. Ackerman SFC runs efficiently but increasing/decreasing the facility's temperature by a single degree can add efficiency and that adjustment will be implemented.
  - e. Install motion sensor lights at FJC – project on hold due to staff limitations.
  - f. Seek incentives for retrofitting lights at FCJ – project on hold.
  - g. Create guidelines for reduced waste as part of special events – project on hold due to COVID.
  - h. Host a sport's clothing and equipment swap - project on hold, yet Commissioner Nephew shared details of an on-line sale option that can be facilitated with on-line software. Depending on the duration of COVID and in-person events, this option may be pursued.
  - i. Earn water quality flag from SCARCE – Jean shared ways the GEPD can still earn the flag, even though some of the rain barrel initiatives have been stalled due to COVID. She felt the

District is already implementing many water saving projects (permeable pavers, native plantings, trash cleanup efforts, storm drain medallions, Lake Ellyn floating restorers). Staff will compile efforts and see if flag can be earned soon.

- j. Offer Sustainable Garden Tour, Gardening for Pollinators Workshop, Tree Sale, improved Forest Therapy Walks – Native Tree Sale is happening in September. Workshop and Garden Tour on hold due to COVID. Staff will work with Library to offer Forest Therapy Walks soon.
- k. Expanded Garden Plot efforts – staff have implemented a few improvements at the garden plots, including staying on top of weeds in vacant plots and in aisles, adding woodchips (organic matter) in aisles, working with COD's Fuel Pantry staff to set up vegetable donation boxes, and in return, they are offering a few garden talks for garden patrons. Staff is looking into organic additives for the fall to further improve soil conditions.
- l. Continue working with Village Environmental Commission on suitable projects – Jacquelyn shared with the group information on two educational garden installations on GEPD sites. A new installation of perennial plants was installed in front of the boathouse at Lake Ellyn Park. Signage will be installed soon that will feature a QR code that links to a page that will have several educational documents about the plants featured. At Village Green park, four long planters were planted in a color-schemed arrangement. An educational sign will be posted, and supplemented information will be available on Park District and Village websites. Jacquelyn also shared information about the Village's electrical aggregation that remains at 100% green power and price matches with ComEd's rate. The Village's downtown streetscape and tree installations and improvements will be on hold until 2022.
- m. Tree survey, tree guide, and tree/plant interpretation at Lake Ellyn – Manager Frigo showed the group how to access the new tree survey and interactive species details.
- n. Create additional Monarch Waystations – project on hold.

- VI. Maryknoll Park recipient of ComEd Greenest Region Grant – the District will be expanding an existing butterfly garden and adding plant labels and an interpretive sign. We also will be adding about 12,000 square feet to the existing pollinator meadow and over-seeding the entire three-acre meadow with prairie and wetland seeds.

#### VII. Committee Suggestions

- a) Christina stated that perhaps the library staff could participate in a forest therapy walk. We will follow-up on that. She also suggested Workshop88 could be a source for utilizing reclaimed wood (stemming from staff comments on using trees that are damaged during storms). She also mentioned she visited a Dark Sky park. Conversation ensued related to how the radius of light pollution can impact surrounding areas. GEPD can look further into dark sky initiatives related to use of lighting and hosting an Earth Hour event possibly next year.
- b) Commissioner Cornell suggested utilizing Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology (non-profit conservation organization with many citizen science opportunities). Cornell facilitates the eBird application that many local birders use to record their sightings. Other citizen science opportunities could be pursued. Christina mentioned that the Library's winter publication will feature citizen science opportunities. Staff will look further into monitoring programs in parks.

#### VIII. Adjournment at 7:45 p.m.