

**Glen Ellyn Park District
Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting via Zoom
February 25, 2021
6:30 PM**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES (DRAFT)

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM
- II. Members John Bower, Jacquelyn Casazza, Commissioner Cornell, Remic Enweiler, Christina Keasler, Janet Kuefler, Commissioner Nephew, Director Harris, Park Manager Troia, and Manager Frigo present on via Zoom.
- III. Approval of Sept 9, 2020, Minutes
- IV. Manager Frigo followed-up on committee suggestions from September 2020, including coordinating Nature & Forest Therapy Walks with the GE Public Library possibly this summer or fall, exploring an urban wood utilization plan associated with future forest management plans for the District, Dark Sky presentation as part of the Earth Day Symposium, and possibly Citizen Science opportunities this summer. Remic Enweiler stated that 'projects' for sites can be set up in the iNaturalist app. Jacquelyn Casazza suggested having high school students help with citizen science efforts.
- V. Potential District environmental goals for 2021 were reviewed
 - a. Gradual conversion to compostable concession paper products – suggestions will be discussed at an upcoming staff environmental committee meeting.
 - b. Manager Troia provided an update on Energy Audits conducted recently by ComEd and Nicor. Some immediate actions were implemented, such as installation of low-flow shower heads at Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center, faucet aerators, and LED bulb upgrades. Other suggestions will be considered for implementation once the new facilities manager position is filled.
 - c. Manager Frigo shared information about an Urban Forest Management Plan being created for Lake Ellyn in 2021.
 - d. Staff will submit information associated with earning the Water Flag from SCARCE/DuPage County.
 - e. More native plant installations will take place with select 2021 landscape projects.
- VI. Updates provided on future 2021 programs and projects
 - a. Manager Frigo provided information on spring and summer programs and events planned, including Earth Day Symposium Webinars; Rain Barrel & Composter Sale; Garden and botany talks; Summer nature camps; Self-Guided Sustainable Yard Tour; Pollinator Blitz – Citizen Science; and Improved inclusion efforts for nature outreach
 - b. Manager Troia shared information on efforts to establish the East Branch DuPage Regional Trail. Maryknoll Park may be included in the alignment along Route 53. Burke Engineering is completing the preliminary Alignment Study, which should be completed in early 2021. Federal money is needed to begin Phase 1 plans, which will include the preliminary engineering and environmental studies.

VII. Committee Suggestions

- a. Christina Keasler shared information about the Library's Walking Wednesday's program that utilizes iPods, headsets and lanyards presented in a podcast format. Target age is preschool age with an adult. The GE Park District may participate in future walks, including ones related to the importance of oaks, invasive species, and other nature-related topics.
- b. John Bower shared details of scavenger hunt-type programs he set up for his students at Ben Franklin school, which included activities at Lake Ellyn Park that he will share with park staff. He suggested using similar scavenger hunts or I Spy formats for children and families to use in the parks. Perhaps incorporate markers or QR codes to provide additional educational information. He suggested setting up a junior naturalist program for youth. Other suggestions included posting DIY nature activities on the Greener Glen Ellyn Page, Art in Place/photo posts, featuring photos of the week, aligning activities to Next Generation Science Standards that parents and teachers could utilize. Incentivize participation with swag, admission to park district facilities (pool/mini golf/splash park).
- c. Remic Ensweiler encouraged use of Facebook posts with content on prescribed fires that tend to get high views. He also shared the College of DuPage's STEM CON will be virtual this year, taking place April 22 – 25.
- d. Commissioner Cornell thought marketing to grandparents should be encouraged. Design programs or activities for grandparents/grandchildren to do together.
- e. Other discussion among the group included ideas for park adventure-based playgrounds and offering ways to encourage unstructured play.
- f. Christina Keasler asked if the Park District could track how many times the Lake Ellyn tree survey/QR code link/site has been visited thus far.

VIII. Adjournment at 7:57 pm