

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2021

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Environmental and Forestry Commission of the Village of Winnetka, which was held in the Council Chambers at Village Hall, 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois, Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.; Voting Members present: Chairperson Chuck Dowding, Commissioners David Varca, Roseann Park-Jones, Ted Wynnychenko, Liz Kunkle, and Patrick Hanley. Voting Members absent: Commissioner Barry Sylvester. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative present: Kim Mancini. Student Representatives present: Scarlett Harper and Marcus Buccellato. Staff Representative present: Diana Puga, Public Works Analyst. Public present: One (1) member of the public was present.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed all Commission members and the public. Staff Representative Puga took roll call for attendance.

2) Public Comment:

No public comment.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes:

a) Approval of the September Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the November 10, 2021, minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Wynnychenko.

AYES:	VARCA, PARK-JONES, WYNNYCHENKO, KUNKLE, HANLEY
ABSENT:	SYLVESTER
NAYS:	NONE

4) New Business, Old Business/Updates:

a) Existing Conditions Report for 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Chairperson Dowding informed the Commissioners the Existing Conditions report was reported to the Plan Commissioners and will go to the Village Council next. He is unsure to what extent comments from the November 10th EFC meeting were included in the report.

Student Representative Buccellato asked what the Lakota Group is. Commissioner Kunkle explained the Lakota Group is a consultant that is assisting the Village with their 2040 Comprehensive Plan, as well as several other Village infrastructure projects.

The Existing Conditions Report outlines 5 profiles for Winnetka residents: 1. Young Families, 2. High Schoolers, 3. Empty Nesters, 4. Single Individuals with no Children, 5. Individuals who grew up in Winnetka and are now raising families.

Commissioner Kunkle, who attended the Plan Commission meeting, provided key points from the report:

Page 9: Dovetails sustainability, ties together the business district, branding, and ways to connect the districts. Edward Bennett was hired with a mandate to use “common sense applied to common interests.” That still holds.

Page 41: Branding beyond schools, schools cannot be the only primary brand/identity. Village Council and residents need to be comfortable with risky retail services and uses.

Page 96: The Lakota Group makes observations that in other communities, roof forms are used to create consistency and to tie everything together. Also, essential our Economic Development is made to look more like a residence and not a business; mixed use and multi family developments are a form of sustainability.

Page 150: Climate initiatives must be part of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Page 156: A challenge for the Village will be to create more vital engagement areas and not vital commercial areas.

During the meeting, the Lakota Group questioned whether sustainability provisions should be a stand-alone pillar or integrated in all pillars.

Chairperson Dowding stated that initiatives need to tie into a community pillar, have a mission statement, goals, objectives, a time frame, and a budget. He provided an example of a Sustainability Officer position. The Village currently has several individuals who are in sustainability roles, such as the Village Forester, Water and Electric Director, etc., but there is no central individual.

Chairperson Dowding requested each Commissioner choose a goal, like his example, they would like to see occur in any time frame. Deadline to submit for the agenda would be Wednesday, January 3, 2022.

b) Summary: Lakota – Planning Commission Interaction

i) Municipal Resolution Endorsing the 2021 CAP for the Chicago Region Update

The resolution is currently scheduled to be on the January 4, 2022, Council agenda.

ii) Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA)

c) Naperville Energy and Sustainability Task Force (NEST) and Clean Energy Alliance of Naperville (CLEAN)

Chairperson Dowding has been in communications with NEST and CLEAN. He discovered that NEST is not a Commission but rather a Task Force and is not a governmental commission as is the EFC. CLEAN is neither a Commission nor Task Force but is a 501c4 which allows them to endorse and donate.

Chairperson Dowding inquired how information and education on IMEA could be approached, Trustee Liaison Mancini stated a study session to discuss IMEA with Council would probably be the best approach. Commissioners inquired how to schedule a study session, Trustee Liaison Mancini advised they would need to contact Village Manager Rob Bahan or Village President Chris Rintz.

d) Waste Collection Totals

Staff Liaison Puga provided the Commissioners with data for refuse and recycling collections from residential homes and commercial business for 2019 and 2020. A comparison will also be completed to assess refuse collection totals since the roll out of the curbside collection program in June.

e) Sustainable Materials Management

Commissioner Kunkle tabled discussion of sustainable materials management, this agenda item can act as a place holder for upcoming discussions.

5) Communications:

a) Approval of December Communication Items

Staff Liaison Puga reached out to Communications about including the Green Awards Application in the Winnetka Report, however the Winnetka Report was full of other content and would be included in the weekly e-newsletter. Commissioners requested the Green Awards Application be included weekly in the e-newsletter if possible. Chairperson Dowding and Staff Liaison Puga will work together to condense the communication item

for the Green Awards. Other Communication Items include: Christmas Tree Pick-Up, Holiday Lights Recycling, Commercial Business Lighting, and Use of Natural Light During Winter. Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the December communication items which was moved by Commissioner Varca and seconded by Commissioner Park-Jones.

AYES: VARCA, PARK-JONES, WYNNYCHENKO, KUNKLE,
HANLEY
ABSENT: SYLVESTER
NAYS: NONE

b) Discussion of January Communication Items

The Commissioners reviewed the January Communication Items which included the EFC Green Awards Application, Reducing Energy Use and Costs in Homes and Businesses, Switching from Incandescent Bulbs to LED, Holiday Lights Recycling, and Ways to Avoid Using Poisonous Mouse Bait.

c) Discussion of November Communication Items

The Commissioners reviewed the November Communication Items which included Holiday Lights Recycling, America Recycles Day, Battery Recycling, Plastic Bag, Film, and Wrap Recycling, Textile Recycling, and Use of Natural Light During Winter.

6) **Commission/Staff Reports:**

Chairperson discussed Public Works Director's request for volunteers to assist during Styrofoam Collection on Mondays from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. with the Commissioners. The Commissioners discussed several ideas, including suspending the program during inclement weather, providing a drop off location, and volunteering to sort through the material afterwards. The Commissioners would continue to brainstorm for alternatives and follow up with Public Works Director.

7) **Open Forum:** None.

8) **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Wynnychenko and seconded by Commissioner Hanley. The motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.