

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 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, September 8, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.; Voting Members present: Chairperson Chuck Dowding, Commissioners Chris Foley, David Varca, Roseann Park-Jones, Ted Wynnychenko, and Liz Kunkle. Voting Members absent: Commissioners Barry Sylvester. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative present: Kim Mancini. Student Representatives absent: Scarlett Harper and Marcus Buccellato. Staff Representative present: Diana Puga, Public Works Analyst. Public present: No members of the public were present.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 August Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the August 11, 2021, minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Wynnychenko and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle.

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

4) New Business, Old Business/Updates:

a) Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Chairperson Dowding provided a brief update regarding the butterfly pollinator garden. Eagle Scout Candidate Michael Essig planted the garden on August 28th at the Public Works facility, he states that approximately 20 individuals came out to assist in the planting. Essig is currently working to send out calendars to all involved groups, have all

but one month filled on the sustainability plan, and reports the garden is in a prominent location. Essig also reported there is a challenge with the watering schedule at the moment, Chairperson Dowding requested that Staff Liaison Puga discuss the issues with the Village Forester and report back to the Commission.

b) Sustainability Chapter for 2040 Comprehensive Plan Review

Chairperson Dowding reported that he and Commissioner Wynnychenko would be attending the joint Plan Commission and Village Council study session to act as a resource. Chairperson Dowding provided President Rintz a copy of the Sustainability Chapter for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

c) Sustainable Materials Management

i) Food Scrap & Composting

Commissioner Kunkle states she would like this agenda item to be a placeholder for future and further discussions on how the Village can pursue reduction, diversion, and compost organic including potentially developing incentives for businesses and residents.

Chairperson Dowding shared with Commissioner Kunkle an article about the pros and cons of using a cloth versus a reusable plastic bag. This conversation led the Commission to discuss the lack of education and communication to encourage more businesses to recycle.

The Commission inquired about tipping reports and requested a graph or report comparing residential and commercial refuse and recycling tonnage collections for 2019 and 2020 for comparison with 2021 tonnage after rollout of the new system.

Chairperson Dowding and Commissioner Kunkle attended a meeting in August and commented on the need for increased interaction on sustainable issues of mutual interest. One of the possibilities is creating pollinator friendly gardens on golf courses.

5) Communications:

a) Approval of October Communication Items

Staff Liaison Puga informed the Commissioners that the Public Works department had some concerns with rebranding the Pumpkin Composting event to include the verbiage “Pumpkin Smash” as it could be misinterpreted and could be a potential liability. Commissioner Kunkle believes the decision to maintain current branding is ridiculous and beyond disappointing, she states it is word play, but doesn’t change the operations. The Commission discussed amending the communication item to mitigate liability concerns

and proposed including the “Please note: residents will not actually smash their own pumpkins!”. Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the October communication items which was moved by Commissioner Wynnychenko and seconded by Commissioner Park-Jones.

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

b) Discussion of November Communications Items

The Commissioners made minor grammatical and date changes to the November Communications Items.

6) **Commission/Staff Reports:**

Staff Liaison Puga informed the Commission of a plan for Lakota Group to attend at the meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 13, 2021. The commission discussed this possibility and requested that Dowding seek to delay the visit until November when he could attend.

7) **Open Forum:** None.

8) **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Foley and seconded by Commissioner Varca. The motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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