

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 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, August 11, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.; Voting Members present: Chairperson Chuck Dowding, Commissioners Chris Foley, Roseann Park-Jones, and Liz Kunkle. Voting Members absent: Commissioners David Varca, Ted Wynnychenko, and 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: No members of the public were present.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 July 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the July 14, 2021, minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Foley and seconded by Commissioner Park-Jones.

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

4) New Business, Old Business/Updates:

a) Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Eagle Scout Troop 18 candidate, Michael Essig, provided an update regarding the application he submitted for the butterfly pollinator garden. The garden was originally going to be planted along the Green Bay Trail, unfortunately the identified plot is within Union Pacific's right-of-way. The new location for the garden will be in front of the Public

Works facility, which offers good visibility. The new plans will be similar to the original plans and group volunteers will still be responsible for weeding and caring for the garden.

Commissioner Foley offered to assist or volunteer his two Scouts to assist; Michael informed Commissioner Foley he will confirm with his leader if non-Scouts can assist in planting.

b) Sustainability Chapter for 2040 Comprehensive Plan Review

Chairperson Dowding presented the Chicago Region Climate Action Plan (CAP), an initiative of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. The CAP acknowledges threats of changing climate while also identifying methods for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Commissioners discussed various areas of the CAP and how they intersect with the Greenest Region Compact 2 (GRC2). The Commission also discussed how the CAP intersects with the draft Sustainability Chapter created Spring 2021, particularly action items specific to Winnetka. The following are areas the Commission would like to combine for further consideration/research: Climate and Energy (GRC) with Energy Power (CAP), Mobility (GRC) and Sustainability to reduce VMT (CAP), Land, Water and Waste (GRC) with Waste and Water (CAP), Municipal Operations, Sustainable Communities, and Economic Development (GRC) with Clean Energy Policy (CAP), Leadership (GRC) encompasses all areas.

Commissioner Foley inquired whether the EFC agreeing with the CAP would lead the Commission to recommend that the Village Council adopt the document as whole or will it be used as a resource where certain action items could be presented to the Village Council. Chairperson Dowding also suggested actionable items could be taken from the GRC2 framework document. Commissioner Kunkle suggested the CAP and items provide a foundation to make suggestions and provide defensible policy-based approaches to articulating issues and ways to address said issues. The CAP is not drafted in such a way to allow municipalities to “adopt” it as is done with the GRC2 Compact. Commissioner Kunkle suggested the Commission consider creating document that captures the differences and gaps between the current draft Sustainability Plan and the CAP. where Winnetka was 10 to 15 years ago and where they are now in their efforts. This document could also potentially be provided to Lakota Group; Commissioner Park-Jones suggested it could act as an appendix or exhibit to the draft Sustainability Plan.

c) Sustainable Materials Management

i) Food Scrap & Composting

The Commission held a discussion regarding composting in the Village. Staff Liaison Puga was able to find some information regarding the conversations and information the previous Public Works Analyst, Brendon Mendoza, was able to find during his

initial research. The Village of Glencoe hosts a composting program and shared they have challenges with the program due to compliance and popularity of the program. The Winnetka Public Works staff identified similar concerns for a program at the Yards, including the inability to provide a drop-off option primarily because the Village has a closed landfill.

Commissioner Kunkle would like to request composting be included in the upcoming contract conversations/bid for recycling. The commission explored various alternatives, including a study pilot with a provider to further explore response of residents, entering into a contract with an exclusive hauler provider, including composting as part of the Request for Proposals/Bids. There was also a brief discussion about a community garden; Commissioner Kunkle shared the pollinator garden would act like a community garden; and finished compost would hopefully be part of that.

d) Hubbard Woods Train Station Reconstruction and Green Bay Trail

Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the addendum from the July 14, 2021, meeting in which the Commission discussed approaching Village Council to request that staff further investigate Metra's planned landscaping and platform enhancements to leverage it for the beautification of the contiguous GBT. The EFC also requests that the Village Council hold a study session at its convenience on the Metra reconstruction to allow for further input and to consider means of leveraging of Metra's reconstruction for beautification of the GBT and adjacent Village property. Commissioner Park-Jones moved the motion, Commissioner Kunkle seconded the motion.

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

5) Communications:

a) Approval of September Communication Items

The Commission suggested including a tree related communication item. The Commission also requested Andrew Lueck, Village Forester, assist in deciding which tree communication item should be included and requested he draft a communication item regarding the butterfly pollinator garden. Chairperson asked for a motion to approve the September communication items which was moved by Commissioner Foley and seconded by Commissioner Park-Jones.

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

b) Discussion of October Communications Items

The Commission discussed rebranding the Pumpkin Composting Event to a Pumpkin Smash. Commissioner Kunkle shared information for the organization, SCARCE, which host annual pumpkin smashes and have successfully diverted over 159.7 tons of waste from landfills since their first Pumpkin Smash held in 2014.

6) **Commission/Staff Reports:**

Student Representative Harper announced the newest butterfly pollinator garden at Greeley Elementary School. School Representative Buccellato also discussed the process the Village uses to bill residents for electricity.

7) **Open Forum:** None.

8) **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Foley. The motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

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