

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
July 14, 2021

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Environmental and Forestry Commission of the Village of Winnetka, which was held virtually via Zoom, Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.; Voting Members present: Chairperson Chuck Dowding, Commissioners David Varca, Ted Wynnychenko, Liz Kunkle, and Barry Sylvester. Voting Members absent: Commissioners Chris Foley and Roseann Park-Jones. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative present: Kim Mancini. Student Representatives present: Scarlett Harper and Marcus Buccellato. Staff Representatives present: Diana Puga, Public Works Analyst. Public present: Two members of the public.

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:

Two members of the public were present. The members of the public commented on the recently released Metra Expansion Plans and shared concerns primarily with Metra's timeline for allowing public comment as well as their proposed plans for re-vegetation. The members shared their own experiences with challenges they have faced with re-vegetation and would like to involve the EFC.

After discussions, Commissioner Varca proposed the following: to ask village staff to further investigate the proposed Metra plans for expansion/modification of Hubbard Woods, allow for a special study session to allow for public comment, and to recommend that the re-vegetation be more thoroughly investigated by Metra. The commissioners agreed this is an important issue to address considering beautification of the Green Bay Trail is a recurring budget expenditure.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes:

a) Approval of the June 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the June 9, 2021, minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Wynnychenko and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle.

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

4) New Business, Old Business/Updates:

a) Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Chairperson Dowding provided a status update regarding the monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden.

Eagle Scout Troop 18 candidate, Michael Essig, has submitted the permit application and documents to James Bernahl for review and approval.

Commissioner Varca inquired about the process for approval. Chairperson Dowding stated the EFC had ask the Village Council for a shortened process for plantings in the parkway, considering it is the first application of its kind.

Commissioner Kunkle shared the Monarch Butterfly information flyer created by the Forestry Intern. Since sharing, she has had various individuals and organization reach out to be involved, including Greeley Elementary School.

The commission had a discussion regarding the point-of-contact for coordinating and managing the list of volunteers and volunteer schedule. Chairperson Dowding suggested this topic remain on the table for consideration and discussion in August. Commissioner Varca suggested it be a recurring agenda item, potentially including a calendar and titling it "Mayor Monarch's Pledge Garden Progress".

b) Sustainability Chapter for 2040 Comprehensive Plan Review

The commission held a discussion on the steps and development for the sustainability chapter. The document serves as an educational source, will serve as a foundation for the Lakota Group as they develop the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, and should incorporate the Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region. The plan will consist of two parts:

1. Adoption of a draft by the EFC and 2. Provide to Lakota Group by October/November.

The Climate Action Plan is an initiative of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, backed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This is the first of four regional plans that will be implemented in the country. The plan will be shared with the commissioners in the near future to review and discuss.

Commissioner Sylvester made a motion to adopt the draft as the initial version of the working document to be developed further for Lakota Group to consider for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, Commissioner Wynnychenko seconded the motion.

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

c) Sustainable Materials Management

i) Styrofoam Recycling

Commissioner Kunkle was in communications with a representative of Dart to better understand the changes that have occurred to the recycling program. Dart has relayed that they do not want to establish too many recycling programs and commit to collections. The effort is low on the list because they are not a waste hauling company and have established programs for grants that will allow municipalities to densify Styrofoam that can be process within their municipalities.

ii) Food Scrap & Composting

Commissioner Kunkle is interested in increasing composting efforts throughout the Village. The Village of Glencoe has a community garden that accepts food scraps and created a standalone container where residents can drop off food scraps that are then collected by Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS).

Commissioner Kunkle shared that Brendon Mendoza, the former Public Works Analyst, had begun researching this prior to his departure and she would like to investigate options for access to a drop-off in Winnetka. Collective Resource has similar drop-off programs as well.

d) Revised Recycling Communications Review

The commission reviewed various recycling communications that Commissioner Kunkle revised.

5) Communications:

a) Approval of August Communication Items

Commissioner Kunkle suggested the pumpkin composting event and leaf collection be postponed until September communications and suggested recycling communications replace it. Student representative Harper provided a communications item on textile recycling. Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the July Communications Items with amendments which was moved by Commissioner Wynnychenko and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle.

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

b) Discussion of September Communications Items

The commission discussed replacing the September communication items with a tree or back to school blurb. They also discussed potentially including an item on the butterfly pollinator garden. The commission requested a calendar with items that will be considered in the upcoming months that includes deadlines, this has been provided in the past.

6) **Commission/Staff Reports:** None.

7) **Open Forum:** None.

8) **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Varca and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle. The motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

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