



Village of Winnetka

Environmental and Forestry Commission Meeting

November 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Winnetka Village Hall Council Chambers - 510
Green Bay Road

AGENDA

1. **Introduction & Chair's Remarks**
2. **Public Comments**
3. **Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Approval of the Wednesday, October 11 Regular Meeting Minutes
4. **New Business / Old Business Updates**
 - a. Metra/UPN Salt Use
 - b. Pumpkin Collection
5. **Communications**
 - a. New Items (Composting and Wasted Food Scale)
6. **Committee/Staff Reports**
7. **Open Forum**
8. **Adjournment**

NOTICE

All agenda materials are available at villageofwinnetka.org (**Government > Council Information > Agenda Packets & Minutes**); the Reference Desk at the Winnetka Library; or in the Manager's Office at Village Hall (2nd floor). The Village of Winnetka, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that all persons with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities, contact the Village ADA Coordinator, at 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, 847-716-3543; T.D.D. 847-501-6041.

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 11, 2023

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, October 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Commissioner Kunkle called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Voting Members present: Commissioners Elizabeth Kunkle, Peter Eck, Gregory Frezados and David Varca. Voting Members absent: Patrick Hanley, Brendan Andrew and Tim Ring. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative present: Robert Dearborn. Student Representative Present: None. Interim Staff Liaison present: Erik Jensen, Assistant Public Works Director. Public present: David Conway, Elisha Gray and Cindy Schrader.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Commissioner Kunkle noted that Chair Hanley was unable to attend that evening. A motion to appoint Commissioner Kunkle as Chair Pro Tem was made by Commissioner Varca, seconded by Commissioner Frezados. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

2) Public Comment:

From the audience, Mr. Elisha Gray explained that he was an avid user of the Green Bay Trail, and he briefly discussed the Village Council Study Session on the topic from Tuesday, October 10. He stated that he was pleased with the content and encouraged the Commission to be a proponent of the Master Plan.

From the audience, Ms. Cindy Schrader discussed the "Lights Out Initiative" aimed at reducing light pollution. She explained that light pollution can disrupt the migratory patterns of birds and discussed the City of Chicago's recent initiative. She briefly discussed steps individuals can take and listed nonprofit organizations that would be willing to assist with plans to reduce light pollution.

Commissioner Ring joined the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Commissioner Andrew joined the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Chair Pro Tem Kunkle asked all Commissioners to introduce themselves. A round of introductions followed.

Chair Pro Tem Kunkle briefly addressed Ms. Schrader's comments and noted the relationship between the "dark sky" initiative and the Village's Comprehensive Plan.

3) **Review and Approval of Minutes**

a) **Approval of the September Regular Meeting Minutes**

Representative Dearborn noted one date correction to the minutes as presented. A motion was made by Commissioner Eck, seconded by Commissioner Andrew to approve the minutes as amended.

AYES: VARCA, ECK, ANDREW, FREZADOS, KUNKLE, RING.

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE.

4) **New Business/Old Business Updates:**

a) **Presentation by New Trier High School Green Award Recipient David Conway:**

Mr. David Conway from the New Trier Township High School introduced himself and stated that he would be discussing district initiatives at both the Winnetka and Northfield Campuses this evening.

Mr. Conway briefly overviewed several initiatives at both campuses, including Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifications at the Winnetka campus's recent additions as well as solar projects at both facilities.

Mr. Conway discussed the funding sources for recent work as well as the process utilized to identify potential sustainability projects in the facilities.

A brief conversation followed on the relative differences in solar output from each campus and net metering initiatives.

A conversation followed on intergovernmental cooperation as it relates to sustainability. Commissioner Eck asked about lessons learned and suggestions for other organizations. Mr. Conway stated that sustainability is a mindset and must be approached systematically.

Chair Pro Tem Kunkle thanked Mr. Conway for attending the meeting and presenting.

b) **Active Transportation Alliance**

Chair Pro Tem Kunkle briefly discussed a request from a Village of Northfield resident to the Active Transportation Alliance to create more connectivity between Northfield and Winnetka. She noted this was purely informational but that there was interest in looking at future options.

c) Pumpkin Composting

Chair Pro Tem Kunkle stated that this year's Pumpkin Composting event will be held on Wednesday, November 1.

d) Elm Street Composting Post-Farmers Market

Chair Pro Tem Kunkle stated that the composting bins that were installed as a pilot project for the Farmers Market would remain at the Elm Street Train Station after the conclusion of the market.

5) **Communications:**

No reports. Chair Pro Tem Kunkle explained the history and context of previous communications.

6) **Commission/Staff Reports:**

No reports.

7) **Open Forum:**

Chair Pro Tem Kunkle explained that this would be the time for each Commissioner to give any updates on their areas of interest.

Commissioner Frezados stated that he had started looking into a primer for public financing of public solar projects. He explained that would likely bring forward something to review at the November regular meeting.

Commissioner Ring stated that he was also looking into "ease of use" considerations for regulation and would also be bringing forth something for review in the near future.

Commissioner Eck stated he had begun reviewing some community carbon assessments.

Commissioner Andrew overviewed his initial compilation of items to consider related to alternative power generation. He briefly discussed the items he had compiled and explained he would continue refining his list.

Commissioner Varca stated he would be looking further into inter-commission and intergovernmental items related to sustainability.

Chair Pro Tem Kunkle overviewed her interest in continuing to expand composting options as well as native plantings.

Commissioner Eck exited the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

A brief conversation followed on the existing composting options.

8) Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chair Pro Tem Kunkle asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Andrew and seconded by Commissioner Frezados. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote; the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

DRAFT



What do Greeley School, Hubbard Woods School, Washburne School, New Trier's East Campus, the Winnetka Congregational Church, and the Elm Street Train Station all have in common? They're all drop-off sites for Winnetka's residential food scrap collection program! This past summer, at the request of the Chamber of Commerce and Go Green Winnetka, the Village added the Winnetka Farmers Market site as a pilot program. The success of this new location has led to the decision to make it permanent. Find out more about specific locations and drop-off hours on the Village website [here](#).

New Info on Wasted Food Released



Need a little nudge to start composting? [New reports](#)—and a new Wasted Food Scale—from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provide updated recommendations for managing food waste and reveal the impacts of food waste on landfill methane emissions. **Bottom line: wasted food causes 58% of methane emissions from municipal solid waste landfills.**