



Village of Winnetka

Environmental and Forestry Commission Meeting

July 10, 2024 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 May 8, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
4. **Old Business Updates**
 - a. Village Council May 14, 2024 Study Session on IMEA Contract Renewal Update
 - b. Right-of-Way Native Landscaping
5. **New Business**
 - a. Presentation on Residential Solar Installations
6. **Communications**
 - a. August 2024 Communications
 - b. September 2024 Communications
7. **Committee/Staff Reports**
8. **Open Forum**
9. **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
MAY 8, 2024

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, May 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chair Hanley called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Voting Members present: Chair Patrick Hanley and Commissioners Elizabeth Kunkle, Peter Eck, Gregory Frezados and Tim Ring. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative present: Bob Dearborn. Student Representative Present: Scarlett Harper. Interim Staff Liaison present: Erik Jensen, Assistant Public Works Director.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chair Hanley welcomed the group. He noted Commissioner Andrew would be absent this evening due to the birth of his new child. He also provided an update on conversations between the Village and Friends of the Green Bay Trail on the demonstration project.

Commissioner Varca arrived at 7:06 p.m.

Chair Hanley noted that the next Village Council Study Season would be the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency's proposed contract extension with the Village.

2) Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes

a) Approval of the April Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Ring, seconded by Commissioner Frezados to approve the minutes as presented.

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: ANDREW.

4) New Business/Old Business Updates:

a) Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Commissioner Kunkle overviewed the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and the action items the Village had committed to for 2024.

5) Communications:

a) June Communications Items

Commissioners Eck and Kunkle noted edits related to plastic recycling and compostables. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

b) July Communications Items

Commissioner Ring asked who drafts the Communications items and a brief conversation followed. Chair Hanley asked for Commissioners to draft communication items in their area of interest. He also asked that the Commission's list of communications be circulated for Commissioner review.

6) Commission/Staff Reports:

No reports.

7) Open Forum:

Chair Hanley asked the Commission for updates on their individual areas of focus.

Commissioner Frezados discussed his research on solar initiatives and tentatively planned to have a speaker coming to the July regular meeting.

Commissioner Varca and Chair Hanley discussed meeting with the chairs of the Village's other commissions in the near future.

Representative Harper discussed continuing to look into New Trier High School's initiatives.

Commissioner Ring noted he would look into recycling communications with Commissioner Kunkle.

Commissioner Kunkle discussed her continued work on composting and native plants. A conversation followed on the status of right-of-way native plantings. Liaison Jensen stated he would check into the status and send information to Chair Hanley and Commissioner Kunkle.

Commission Eck discussed presenting in August on carbon footprint benchmarking.

8) Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chair Hanley asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Eck. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote; the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

August 2024 EFC Communications Content

1. Recycling Tip – Paper Napkins, Towels, and Tissue Recycling

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Used paper-based goods such as paper napkins, towels and tissues should not be placed into your recycling bin as they are likely contaminated in the process of being used (by touching food, etc.). While they cannot be recycled, they can be composted in one of the Village's drop sites ([LINK](#)). Alternatively, if you cannot reach out a drop site or otherwise compost these items, they should be thrown away in your regular refuse to not contaminated your recycling materials.

2. Pumpkin Composting Event

Winnetka Report

In a continuing effort to expand environmental initiatives, the Village of Winnetka is hosting a one-day pumpkin collection. Residents are encouraged to bring in pumpkins for the Village to properly dispose of, limiting the amount brought to landfills. The Public Work Department will provide a designated drop off location at the Municipal Yards Facility at 1390 Willow Road from ***DATE/TIME TBD***. Please remove any solid waste (candles, bags, etc.). Collection of garbage, food scraps or other landscape waste will not be accepted. Please contact the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568 with any questions.

3. Curbside Leaf Collection

Winnetka Report

The Village's annual curbside leaf collection program will run from October to November, ***DATES/TIME TBD***. Under this program, residents may rake their leaves to the parkway just inside the edge of the curb for collection by the Village. Leaves collected are then hauled to Antioch, IL for composting which the Village then receives back in early spring for residents to use as compost material. For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568.

Back to School EFC Green Tips

Zero Waste School Lunches (Part 1) - Start with the Right Gear

Whether you've been packing lunches for years or are sending off your first child to school, give some thought to how to make a dent in the incredible amount of trash generated by kids' school lunches. Rather than "brown bagging" it, invest in some long-lasting supplies that can be used again and again. Sturdy metal lunch boxes will last for years and prevent exposure to the toxins that packaging can leach into food. Use reusable metal water bottles or insulated mugs instead of single-use plastic bottles or drink boxes or pouches. Use reusable containers to hold individual items rather than single-use plastic bags. Send cloth napkins and reusable (metal or bamboo) utensils. Buy menu items in bulk and decant them in amounts suitable to your child's lunch rather than buying single serving packages. By making these changes, you will have slashed the waste generated by lunch significantly by preventing hundreds of paper and plastic bags and beverage containers from getting made, shipped to you, and sent to the landfill.

Zero Waste School Lunches (Part 2) - Pack the Right Stuff (and the Right Amount)

Two advantages of packing reusable everything are: 1) leftovers come home to be eaten later or composted; and 2) you can see what your child ate. Variety is critical to getting kids to enjoy (and finish!) their lunches. Mix up the veggies, fruits, and mains often and get your kids to join in the process of planning and packing their lunches. If it's healthy and your kid will enjoy it, consider it lunch. Parent brains are already taxed by the zillion things to remember each morning, so don't feel you need to constantly come up with new ideas yourself. Take stock periodically of what's working and what's not and invite your child to help you develop some more go-tos for your repertoire. You'll also have an easier time on busy mornings if you plan your week of lunches ahead when you're making the grocery list. Though zero waste lunches take a little planning and investment upfront, you'll likely recoup your money and then some.