

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13, 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, March 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chair Hanley called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Voting Members present: Commissioners Elizabeth Kunkle, Peter Eck, Brendan Andrew, and Gregory Frezados. 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.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chair Hanley welcomed the group and explained that he would like to return to Commissioner-led initiatives in the upcoming meetings.

2) Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes

a) Approval of the February Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Kunkle, seconded by Commissioner Eck to approve the minutes as presented.

AYES: KUNKLE, ECK, ANDREW, FREZADOS.

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: VARCA, RING.

4) New Business/Old Business Updates:

a) Sustainability Coordinator Update

Chair Hanley provided detail regarding the position and stated that it should be posted in the near future.

b) Sourcing Communications Items

Chair Hanley discussed Commissioner-generated communications items. He asked for Commissioners to come up with two if possible.

Commissioner Frezados asked if the topics could be delegated to avoid duplication.

Commissioner Kunkle explained the history of some of the communications items and their seasonality. She encouraged Commissioner to write on their own topics of interest.

5) Communications:

a) 2024 Green Award Submission

Interim Liaison Jensen explained the application received.

A brief conversation occurred on the history of the award, and ultimately, the Commissioners agreed to award the 2024 Award to the project at 891 Prospect.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kunkle, seconded by Commissioner Frezados to award the 2024 Green Award to the project completed at 891 Prospect. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Liaison Jensen explained that the winners would be recognized at a future Village Council meeting.

b) April Communications Items

A motion was made by Commissioner Kunkle, seconded by Commissioner Eck to approve the April Communications as presented. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

c) May Communications Items

A brief conversation was held regarding promoting composting in the Village.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kunkle, seconded by Commissioner Eck to approve the May Communications as presented. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

6) Commission/Staff Reports:

None.

7) Open Forum:

a) Green Bay Trail Proposal

Chair Hanley discussed the conversation held at the January regular meeting regarding the Green Bay Trail and buckthorn mitigation. He noted that the Friends of the Green Bay Trail had submitted a memorandum on a demonstration project along the trail, which was included in this meeting's packet. He also explained that Village staff had included a memorandum on the subject. He asked Liaison Jensen to briefly overview both items.

Liaison Jensen explained the components of the Friends of the Green Bay Trail's memorandum and then went through the various sections of the staff memorandum. He

explained some of the intricacies associated with the project, including the possible award of a federal grant for a separate project along the trail.

A brief conversation followed on the two memorandums. Liaison Dearborn noted his desire to see the demonstration project continue to move forward. A conversation followed on what would be required in order to see the project move forward.

The Commission reached an informal consensus that further discussions would be needed with the Village Forester and one potential opportunity would follow at the April regular meeting.

b) Commissioner-Led Initiatives

Commissioner Kunkle noted that she was continuing to advocate for composting education and discussed her interest in reviewing options for native plantings in public parkways.

Commissioner Eck stated he was continuing his work on carbon footprint analysis and that he planned to bring something back later in the year on carbon benchmarking.

Commissioner Frezados reviewed some of his work on public financing for solar projects and the various intricacies involved.

Chair Hanley encouraged Commissioner Frezados to scale his work as needed.

Commissioner Andrew reviewed his work with alternative energy supplies. Liaison Dearborn provided some context on the current situation at the Power Plant. Commissioner Andrew suggested he may have more items to bring back in May.

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 Frezados. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote; the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.