

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 10, 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, April 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chair Hanley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Voting Members present: Chair Patrick Hanley and Commissioners Elizabeth Kunkle, Gregory Frezados and Tim Ring. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative present: None. Student Representative Present: None. Interim Staff Liaison present: Erik Jensen, Assistant Public Works Director.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chair Hanley welcomed the group. He asked if there would be any objections to placing public comment after the presentation this evening to allow for questions from the public.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ring, seconded by Commissioner Frezados to amend the meeting's agenda to place the public comment section after Commissioner/Staff Reports. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

2) Review and Approval of Minutes

a) Approval of the March Regular Meeting Minutes

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

AYES: KUNKLE, FREZADOS, RING, HANLEY.

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: ECK, ANDREW, VARCA.

3) New Business/Old Business Updates:

a) 2024 Forestry Update

Chair Hanley noted that there was an upcoming meeting scheduled between the Friends of the Green Bay Trail and Village staff to discuss the Friends' demonstration project proposal.

Chair Hanley briefly introduced Village Forester Andrew Lueck.

Mr. Lueck gave a brief overview of the Forestry Division, including staffing and contractual arrangements. He discussed some of the division's activities, including inventorying of trees.

Mr. Lueck showed an image from the Village's geographic information system with a section of the inventory displayed.

From the audience, a member of the public asked if the trees on the Green Bay Trail are included. Mr. Lueck replied that they were not.

Mr. Lueck discussed tree pruning cycles, stating that trees are all trimmed on a four-to-five-year cycle.

A brief conversation followed on methods of identifying and updating the inventory in conjunction with pruning activities.

Mr. Lueck overviewed the process for permitting private tree removals, including the criteria necessary. He discussed the alternative options available to private property owners in lieu of planting. A brief conversation followed on specific questions related to removals.

Mr. Lueck discussed tree planting with an emphasis on species diversity. Some variables affecting the annual number of trees planted were discussed.

Mr. Lueck ended by discussing plans for the upcoming Arbor Day observance.

Chair Hanley thanked Mr. Lueck for his presentation and asked if he would stay for the public comment section. Mr. Lueck agreed.

4) Communications:

a) May Communications Items

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

b) June Communications Items

Commissioner Kunkle noted that Cook County had also passed a coal tar ban and suggested that language on that be incorporated into the June communications item.

5) Commission/Staff Reports:

Liaison Jensen noted that the recognition for the 2024 Green Award winners would be held at the next Council meeting on Tuesday, April 16.

6) Public Comment:

Mr. Bryan Lammers with Friends of the Green Bay Trail discussed the buckthorn mitigation recommendations made to the Glencoe Village Council and discussed some of the activities completed in Glencoe on the matter.

A conversation followed on potential buckthorn mitigation efforts in the Village. Commissioner Ring asked Mr. Lueck about the impact of buckthorn. Mr. Lueck explained that it needs active management to avoid spreading.

Commissioner Ring asked about other noxious species, and Mr. Lueck explained the Village's noxious species list.

Chair Hanley emphasized the need for continuing education on the matter to assist private property owners that wish to actively mitigate buckthorn on their property.

7) Open Forum:

Due to the time, Chair Hanley asked for updates to be pushed to the next meeting in May. There were no objections.

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 Ring. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote; the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.