

**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 Session 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.