

**WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 13, 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, December 13, 2023, 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, David Varca 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. Public present: None.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chair Hanley welcomed the group and discussed the need to look forward to coming year at this meeting.

Chair Hanley announced that the Village Council had approved the creation of a Sustainability Coordinator position as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget process.

Chair Hanley stated that Trustee Dearborn and President Rintz had met with the Friends of the Green Bay Trail and explained the group's mission. A brief conversation followed on the Friends' native landscaping projects, and Chair Hanley noted that an invitation would be extended for a member to present at a future meeting.

Chair Hanley discussed the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) agreement and that IMEA had conducted forums in other communities. A brief discussion followed on a potential opportunity for a forum in the Village.

Representative Dearborn suggested that EFC should look into completing tours of the Power Plant in the near future.

2) Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes

a) Approval of the October Regular Meeting Minutes

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

AYES: VARCA, FREZADOS, KUNKLE. HANLEY.
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: ANDREW, ECK, RING.

4) New Business/Old Business Updates:

a) Presentation of Snow and Ice Control Operations

Liaison Jensen gave a brief presentation on the Village's snow and ice control operations and focused specifically on salt use practices. The Village's normal winter weather and salt use statistics were discussed as well as methods for controlling and reducing salt use.

A brief conversation followed on communicating this information to the public. Liaison Jensen stated he would work with the Communications team in the coming year.

b) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Commissioner Kunkle described the federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and explained that the program targets emission reduction projects.

A conversation followed on who would submit the grant application.

5) Communications:

A conversation was held on the Communications items for January. Commissioner Kunkle proposed modifications to clarify the disposal of organics language.

A motion was made by Commissioner Varca, to approve the Communications as amended and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

6) Commission/Staff Reports:

Liaison Jensen noted that leaf and yard waste collection had concluded for the year. He noted yard waste collection would resume with holiday tree collection in January.

7) Open Forum:

Chair Hanley asked Commissioners for any updates they had for this meeting on their areas of interest.

Commissioner Kunkle discussed her research into native plantings in cul-de-sacs and her continued work on promoting composting among local businesses.

Commissioner Varca stated he would like to start reaching out to the Commission chairs to begin conversations on how to work together.

Chair Hanley asked that they work together on the messaging and that the other Commission chairs be invited to a future EFC meeting to begin conversations.

Commissioner Frezados stated he is continuing to research public financing options and has been discussing things with local consultants to deepen his understanding.

Chair Hanley noted that Commissioner Andrew had created a first draft of his research on alternative power generation.

Representative Dearborn noted that there would like be a discussion on the Power Plant's capital needs at a Village Council meeting in January.

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 8:05 p.m.