

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2024

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Environmental and Forestry Commission of the Village of Winnetka, which was held in the Police Department Conference Room, 410 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois, Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chair Hanley called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Chair Hanley notified those in attendance that Commissioner Eck had requested to attend this meeting remotely due to a personal illness. Chair Hanley stated that this is permissible provided that 2/3 of the Commission does not object. Chair Hanley asked for any objections. Seeing none, Commissioner Eck was approved to participate in the meeting remotely.

Voting Members present: Chair Patrick Hanley and Commissioners Elizabeth Kunkle, Tim Ring, Peter Eck, David Varca and Brendan Andrew. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative present: Bob 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 asked everyone to confirm their availability to attend the November and December regular meetings with Liaison Jensen.

2) Public Comment:

None

3) Review and Approval of Minutes

a) Approval of the August special Meeting Minutes

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

AYES: KUNKLE, RING, ECK, VARCA, ANDREW.

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: FREZADOS.

4) Old Business Updates:

a) Friends of the Green Bay Trail Pilot Program Update

Chair Hanley overviewed the presentation given by the Friends of the Green Bay Trail at the October 1, 2024 Village Council regular meeting.

Representative Dearborn discussed the presentation and Council's positive reception. A brief conversation followed on the timeline for work.

Commissioner Eck noted that the trail was a focal point of interest in the recent Winnetka Caucus survey results.

b) Winnetka Future Energy Forum to be held Tuesday, October 22nd

Chair Hanley reminded the Commission of the upcoming Future Energy Forum to be held on Tuesday, October 22nd.

5) New Business

Chair Hanley noted there are two items on the agenda for the evening, but asked Commissioner Eck if he would briefly overview some of the topics of relevance to the Environmental and Forestry Commission in the Caucus survey first.

Commissioner Eck noted there was interest in an unleashed dog park, protecting open spaces and transportation and mobility. A brief conversation followed on active transportation, and Commissioner Eck stated he would like to transition his area of interest from carbon footprint benchmarking to active transportation.

a) EV Readiness Program

Chair Hanley briefly overviewed the EV Readiness Program available through the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus.

b) SolSmart Check-In/Follow-Up

Commissioner Kunkle reminded the Commission that the Village has been participating and that it may be relatively easy to achieve a higher rating. Chair Hanley mentioned Commissioner Frezados was working on this area.

6) Communications:

a) September Communications Items

A motion was made by Commissioner Andrew, seconded by Commissioner Kunkle to approve the September Communications as amended. On a voice vote, all aye.

b) October Communications Items

There were no comments.

Chair Hanley stated Communications would be an area of focus and discussion next year for the Commission.

7) **Commission/Staff Reports:**

None

8) **Open Forum:**

Chair Hanley noted the time but asked Commissioner Andrew if he would present one his alternative energy findings at a future meeting.

Commissioner Andrew overviewed his work to date. After some in-depth research, he concluded that residential solar and battery storage may be good options for the community.

Chair Hanley noted that he would like to use the December meeting to discuss planning and the EFC's work in generation for the coming year.

Commissioner Andrew indicated that he would be ready to present his findings at the next EFC meeting in November.

9) **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chair Hanley asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Ring and seconded by Commissioner Andrew. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote; the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.