



Village of Winnetka

Environmental and Forestry Commission Meeting

March 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Winnetka Village Hall Council Chambers - 510
Green Bay Road

AGENDA

- 1. Introduction & Chair's Remarks**
- 2. Public Comments**
- 3. Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - a. January meeting minutes
- 4. Old Business Updates**
 - a. Green Award nominations
 - b. 2025 Priorities and schedule
 - c. Proclamations
 - d. Review of website changes
- 5. New Business**
 - a. Music Fest (and other large events)
 - b. Dark Skies
 - c. Sustainability Advisory Group Regional Meeting
 - d. Commission name
- 6. Communications**
- 7. Committee/Staff Reports**
 - a. IMEA study session de-brief
- 8. Open Forum**
- 9. Adjournment**

NOTICE

All agenda materials are available at villageofwinnetka.org (**Government > Council Information > Agenda Packets & Minutes**); the Reference Desk at the Winnetka Library; or in the Manager's Office at Village Hall (2nd floor). The Village of Winnetka, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that all persons with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities, contact the Village ADA Coordinator, at 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, 847-716-3543; T.D.D. 847-501-6041.

**WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2025**

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, January 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chair Hanley called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Voting Members present: Chair Patrick Hanley and Commissioners Elizabeth Kunkle, Gregory Frezados and Tim Ring, David Varca. Members absent: Peter Eck and Brandon Andrew. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative present: Bob Dearborn. Student Representative Present: Scarlett Harper. Staff Liaison present: Elyse Steiner, Sustainability Coordinator and Kristin Kazenas, Assistant Village Manager.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chair Hanley welcomed the group and introduced Elyse Steiner, the new Sustainability Coordinator and Staff Liaison.

2) Public Comment:

None

3) Review and Approval of Minutes

a) Approval of the July Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner King, seconded by Commissioner Varca to approve the minutes as presented.

AYES: KUNKLE, FREZADOS, VARCA, RING, HANLEY.

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: ANDREW, ECK

4) Old Business Updates:

a) 2024 Accomplishments and opportunities for 2025

Chair Hanley noted the following 2024 EFC accomplishments: Friends of the Green Bay Trail project; Sustainability Coordinator hiring, IMEA education and awareness, Tree-keeping, solar incentive research, and power alternatives presentation.

Opportunities for improvement in 2025 included: Improve communications to the council including EFC initiatives and reporting; Continue to “move the ball,” EFC meeting attendance (4 meetings were canceled due to lack of quorum)

b) 2025 Green Award

Elyse Steiner presented a draft online form for Green Award nominations to replace paper forms. The new form along with some other edits to the Green Award page will be published on February 1, 2025. Nominations will remain open until March 5, 2025.

Commissioners agreed to each identify/ submit at least one nomination. Elyse will follow up with Liz Dechant to get word out to businesses. Scarlett Harper volunteered to also visit businesses to encourage participation.

c) Communications and collaborative process

EFC to revisit environmental tips by season/month for village emails and content for quarterly Winnetka Report.

Kristin Kazenas summarized OMA and EFC appointment rules as a refresher for commissioners. Membership on the EFC will be reviewed and updated by President Rintz.

Elyse will send a reminder email to commissioners 10 days before monthly meetings soliciting input on Agenda items. Commissioners agreed to respond to Elyse and Chair Hanley by Wednesday prior to the meeting. Elyse and Chair Hanley will draft the final Agenda based on input received and any other input from the Council.

5) New Business

a) Website review

Commissioners agreed website is out of date. Elyse will work on changes, remove obsolete links, and move some content from EFC to Sustainability pages.

b) 2025 priorities/ planning

Chair Hanley confirmed commissioners' ongoing areas of interest.

The topic of the Sustainability Plan was tabled until next month.

6) Communications:

7) Commission/Staff Reports:

Elyse Steiner informed the commissioners that she is working with Water & Electric staff to prepare a mailing about IMEA with information about the contract and deliberative process. The mailing will be sent to residents in March.

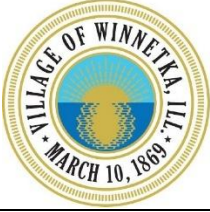
8) Open Forum:

The January 22, 2025, Plan Commission meeting and beachfront permitting was raised. Commissioner Kunkle will represent environmental interests.

9) Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chair Hanley asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Varca and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote; the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

DRAFT



Environment and Forestry Commission Annual Update

Presenter/Chair: Patrick Hanley

Date: January 8, 2025

Significant Achievements/ Projects Completed in the past year:

Friends of the Green Bay Trail project – removal of invasive species and plan to install natives, will increase monarch butterfly and pollinator habitat when finished

Sustainability Coordinator hiring

IMEA education, engagement and awareness

Priorities for coming year (estimated completion):

IMEA contract decision

Climate Action Plan

Recommendations to Council:

Issues/Additional Comments:

Better communications to the council, including EFC initiatives and reporting

Improve EFC meeting attendance