



Village of Winnetka

Environmental and Forestry Commission Meeting

April 9, 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. March meeting minutes
- 4. Old Business Updates**
 - a. Green Awards presentation
 - b. Zero-waste public events
 - c. Commission name
- 5. New Business**
 - a. Residential solar aggregation
 - b. Earth Day and Chicago River Day
 - c. Lawn equipment take-back or rebate program
- 6. Communications**
- 7. Committee/Staff Reports**
- 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
MARCH 12, 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, March 12, 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, Tim Ring, David Varca, Peter Eck and Brandon Andrew. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative absent: Bob Dearborn. Student Representative present: Scarlett Harper. Staff Liaison present: Elyse Steiner, Sustainability Coordinator.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

None

2) Public Comment:

None

3) Review and Approval of Minutes

a) Approval of the January Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

4) Old Business Updates:

a) 2025 Green Award

Elyse Steiner shared the Green Award nominations, and the commissioners discussed the merits of each one. They also discussed whether to choose a single winner or multiple winners in different categories. The consensus was to award the following:

Sustainable residential building – Kaplan

Sustainable residential yard – Collins

Sustainable non-residential property – Potterfield

Commissioner Varca motioned and Commissioner Ring seconded approval of the awardees. Commissioners Hanley, Kunkle, Eck, Andrew, and Frezados voted in favor of the motion.

Elyse will work with Village staff to notify the winners and develop a communication plan to spread wider recognition in the community for these efforts. Village Council will present the awards at the April 15, 2025, meeting

b) 2025 Priorities and schedule

Chair Hanley asked that commissioners send him topics and volunteer to champion or invite speakers to engage in topics of interest.

c) Proclamations

Proclamations for the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and Arbor Day are on the agenda for approval at the April 15, 2025, Village Council meeting.

d) Review of website changes

Commissioners were invited to peruse the Sustainability web pages and suggest any changes/improvements.

5) New Business

a) Music Festival and other public events

Elyse communicated with Scott Meyers on plans to include sustainable practices in Music Fest planning. Scott responded that recycling and composting were already planned. Liz Kunkle suggested that more could be done to eliminate single-use plastic cups and other waste. She also raised the issue of promoting zero-waste for other public events such as the children's fair, parades, etc.

Commissioner Varca volunteered to do further work on practices the Village could expect of public events and what the additional costs might be. Chairman Hanley volunteered to contact Scott about additional zero-waste measures for the Music Festival.

b) Dark Skies Initiative

The Commissioners viewed a brief video made by the community of Duck, NC explaining their Dark Sky ordinance to preserve the night sky and reduce nuisance artificial light at night. There is some interest in working with neighboring communities on standards. No further action was agreed to at the meeting.

c) Sustainability Advisory Group Regional Meetings

The Sustainability Coordinator from Highland Park reached out that the chair of their environmental commission is interested in networking and collaborating with other suburbs. Chair Hanley was supportive of the concept. Elyse will report back to Highland Park.

d) Commission name

The Village Comprehensive Plan recommends expanding the EFC's responsibilities "from forestry to a more comprehensive approach, including environmental initiatives, sustainability, and climate actions...Changing the name of the Commission to Climate Commission and expanding its scope and authority would give the Commission increased ability to recommend policy and implement its goals."

The Commissioners expressed interest in continued conversation about the EFC's mission, scope, and whether a name change is warranted. Chair Hanley offered to raise the issue with Council and Village leadership.

6) Communications:

None

7) Commission/Staff Reports:

Commissioner Kunkle shared information about the Recycle Coach tool that the Village will be incorporating into its website soon and her new role as a Recycle Coach client success manager.

Elyse Steiner summarized recent activity related to the IMEA contract extension deliberations.

8) Open Forum:

None.

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 Frezados. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote; the meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.



2025 Green Awards

April 15, 2025

Residential Yard Design: Christina and Michael Collins



- Designed by: Mariani Landscape
- Added native varieties along the driveway and in a small memorial garden
- Increased sightings of predators including regular visitations by a Cooper's Hawk, a pair of Great Horned Owls, and a young Red Fox
- Removed sod in the back half of yard to add a native plant area designed to provide critters and birds with shelter and native food sources throughout the year
- Installation of water source planned



Sustainable Residential Design: Erik Kaplan



Designed and built by: Mark Golan, Architect and E.D. General Contractors Construction Group

New construction features:

- Fully hydronic heating system with high efficiency boilers, including DHW heating
- Multiple heat pumps for heating and cooling
- Fully spray foamed envelope
- Led lighting throughout
- Electric induction stove
- Custom kitchen table made from an old tree removed from the property
- Smart controls to automatically dim light when not needed and motion activation when needed inside and out
- Smart shade system with insulated shades programmed to follow the sun
- Dual EV charging stations
- Smart heated driveway and walkway to reduce the use of deicing chemicals.
- Community free little library utilized by the public with locking dog treat dispenser
- Smart irrigation system
- Native plant garden area
- Onsite underground rainwater detention system



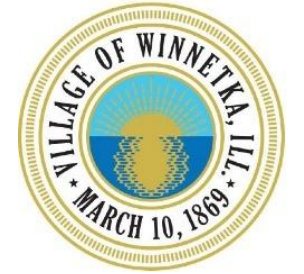
Sustainable Non-Residential Project: April Potterfield



- The Backyard Flower Lab is a space devoted to the growing of an abundance of flowers, which are given away to deserving organizations and individuals
- Provides habitat restoration for a myriad of wildlife, including pollinators
- Produce, including peaches, pears, plums, and apples, is donated to local food pantries in Evanston
- Hosts field trips from local schools to educate children on sustainable gardening and growing flowers
- Created a community of volunteers to help with the flowers and food harvest and delivery







Congratulations to the 2025 Green Award Winners

Winnetka thanks you for your sustainable
investments in the community!