

**WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL, FORESTRY, AND SUSTAINABILITY  
COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 14, 2026**

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Environmental, Forestry and Sustainability Commission of the Village of Winnetka, which was held in Council Chambers, 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois, Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:**

Chair Eck called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Voting Members present: Chair Peter Eck and Commissioners Liz Kunkle, King Poor, Gregory Frezados, Dave Varca, and Tim Ring. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Voting members absent: Brendan Andrew. Village Council Representative present: Kim Handler. Student Representative present: Scarlett Harper. Student Representative absent: Louisa Hernandez. Staff Liaison present: Elyse Steiner, Sustainability Manager.

**1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:**

Chair Eck shared that student representative Louisa Hernandez will be studying abroad this semester and will return to share her experience in the summer.

**2) Public Comment:**

None.

**3) Review and Approval of Minutes**

a) Approval of the December Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Poor, seconded by Commissioner Ring to approve the minutes.

AYES: KUNKLE, FREZADOS, VARCA, RING, POOR, ECK

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: ANDREW

**4) Old Business:**

Solar ordinance part 2 to address ground-mounted solar systems is being deferred until further study can be completed. The decision was to take a “wait-and-see” approach for the time being. Without any applications, there is not a rush to take action right now. EFSC will give an update on the current status but will not be presenting recommendations to Council in March.

Commissioners are interested in promoting recent “wins” for solar including the updated ordinance, fee waiver, and rebate incentives. They also would like better tracking/ reporting of new solar additions to gauge the impact of these policies.

**5) New Business**

Prepare for February 21 Council presentation on 2025 achievements/ 2026 priorities. Commissioners reviewed and prioritized the working list of initiatives for the year. Chair Eck will work on a draft presentation before the February EFSC meeting. This has been rescheduled for the March 3 meeting.

Earth Day/ Earth Month brainstorming. Elyse presented the Eco Ship partnership proposal. Commissioners wanted to explore other possibilities involving solar installers, the Climate Action Plan launch, a recycling event, or promoting events of other organizations. Commissioners agreed to continue thinking of ideas.

Green Awards cycle coming up. Elyse asked that Commissioners help market and identify nominees for this year’s award. Some potential candidates include the Park District, D36 schools, and North Shore Country Day School.

Special sustainability issue of Winnetka Report. Elyse shared the copy from Wilmette and will get more copies to have on hand. With Council’s support, plan to move this forward in the spring.

List of guest presenters/ topics. EFSC has invited speakers on various topics in the past and will put this back on future agendas.

**5) Communications:**

**6) Commission/Staff Reports:**

Commissioners agreed to reschedule February’s meeting for Thursday February 12.

**7) Open Forum:**

None.

**8) Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.