

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2026

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, Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

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

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

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chair Eck welcomed the group and encouraged Commissioners to learn about the stormwater project update.

2) Public Comment:

None

3) Review and Approval of Minutes

a) Approval of the January Regular Meeting Minutes

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

AYES: ECK, FREZADOS, RING, POOR.

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: ANDREW, KUNKLE, VARCA

4) New Business Updates:

a) Climate Action Plan discussion

Keramida consultant Emilee O'Neill presented an overview of the draft CAP and changes that had been made to the draft that was circulated. Commissioners shared additional feedback on the actions, targets, and assumptions in the draft. There were some questions about the feasibility of some targets. The next version will clarify and simplify some of the concepts and address the targets.

b) EFSC update to Council

Elyse shared some draft slides reviewing the past year and listing objectives for 2026. The commissioners debated next steps on the ground-mount solar issue. The current Village code does not permit ground-mount solar energy systems in Winnetka. Options are to do nothing at this time, amend the code to make a special use, or amend to make a permitted use subject to certain criteria.

The update is on the Council agenda for March 3. Note: This has been rescheduled

c) Earth Day

EFSC members brainstormed ideas for an Earth Day/ Earth Month activity. Ultimately, they decided not to organize an activity for April.

There is interest in organizing a solar energy forum or discussion panel to support residents curious about adding solar panels to their homes. Commissioner Ring has been leading this initiative. The event would take place sometime in the summer.

d) Green Awards

At the time of the meeting, no Green Award nominations were received. Elyse encouraged EFSC members to identify and nominate Green Award nominees. Applications will be reviewed and winners selected at the March meeting.

5) **Communications:**

The Winter issue of the Winnetka Report featured many sustainable issues and initiatives. The Spring issue will have a section dedicated to environmental and sustainable stories.

6) **Commission/Staff Reports:**

Chair Eck reminded commissioners about the Post Office survey. He also commented on the Tower Rd pier conditions.

7) **Open Forum:**

8) **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chair Eck asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Poor and seconded by Commissioner Frezados. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote; the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.