

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
February 13, 2019

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, February 13, 2019, at 7:00 pm.

Call to Order: Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; voting Members present: Chuck Dowding, Chris Foley, Rosann Park-Jones, David Varca and Liz Kunkle. Voting Members absent: Mike Nielsen and Barry Sylvester. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Ex-officio Members present: None. Village Council Representative Present: Andrew Cripe. Student Representative Absent: Clark O'Bryan. Staff Representative Present: Matt Havlik, Public Works Analyst. No members of the public were present.

- 1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks: Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all Commission members.
- 2) Review and Summary of Minutes:
 - a) Adoption of the January 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes: Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the January 9, 2019 minutes which was moved by Commissioner Foley and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle.
 - b) December 12, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes (As Amended): Chairperson Dowding stated that the amended December 12, 2018 meeting minutes are included in the packet for reference.
- 3) New Business, Old Business/Updates:
 - a) Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact 2 Discussion:
 - i) GRC2 Framework:

Chairperson Dowding thanked Commissioner Foley for creating a summary sheet of items discussed at the January meeting. The summary sheet contained topics and goals from the GRC2 framework document that the Commission thought would be productive items to present to Village Council. Each item had noted if it is a staff level, EFC level or Village Council level action.

Chairperson Dowding stated that the goal of the meeting tonight is to narrow down and finalize the recommendations that the Commission will present to Village Council in March.

ii) Report to Village Council:

The Commission shifted their discussion to narrowing down items from the GRC2 framework to recommendations to Village Council. Trustee Cripe added that it might be a good idea to present the information as part of the three categories listed on the summary sheet: EFC directive, staff directive, or proposed ordinance by Village Council. Commissioner Kunkle noted that the goals should be presented strategically with the priority goals being items that can be integrated into current topics of discussion at the Village Council level such as the current refuse discussion as well as pay-as-you-throw. Chairperson Dowding mentioned that he would like to see more links to resources and ordinances in the framework document. Trustee Cripe stated that he did not think this is necessary and would be very time consuming for staff and would not add that much more value.

Commissioner Foley inquired about what exactly should the report/presentation to Village Council be about. Matt Havlik stated that the Commission is scheduled to present to Village Council at the March 19th meeting. Matt Havlik shared that there should be two parts to the presentation. Matt Havlik stated that the first part is a status report of where the Village currently lies in regard to the goals outlined in the GRC2 framework. The second part is a recommendation of five to ten goals from the GRC2 framework that the Commission recommends the Village pursue. Matt Havlik added that the Commission is asking for permission from the Village Council to further explore goals that it recommends.

Chairperson Dowding stated that he does not want to overwhelm the Village Council with recommending too many items and that the Commission should look at narrowing down their current list. Chairperson Dowding added that including any stormwater-related items may be beneficial. Trustee Cripe noted that there seem to be a lot of goals related to municipal operations, water and energy categories. Trustee Cripe provided the Commission with a brief update of recent stormwater discussion at the Village Council level.

Chairperson Dowding recommended dividing up items from each of the three categories amongst Commission members. The following assignments were agreed upon:

- Recycling – Commissioner Kunkle
- Energy – Commissioner Foley
- Water – Commissioner Varca & Chairperson Dowding

Commissioner Varca asked if items could be used from different categories outside of the assignments. The group agreed that would be fine as long as it is relatable. The Commission agreed to bring their completed assignments to the March meeting to decide on the final goals to recommend. Chairperson Dowding stated that he thought Commissioner Kunkle would be the best person to prepare the presentation. Commissioner Kunkle happily agreed to start preparing the presentation.

Due to the timing of the March EFC meeting and the scheduled presentation to Village Council, the Commission discussed moving the March EFC meeting to one week earlier to Wednesday, March 6th to provide optimal time to prepare agenda items. Matt Havlik said he would take care of all of the scheduling for this.

The Commissioners spent the remainder of the evening reviewing goals from the summary sheet created by Commissioner Foley.

4) Communications:

- Approval of March Communications Items: The Commission discussed the draft articles for the month of March and agreed that they can be sent to the Village Manager's office for posting. Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the March communications items which were moved by Commissioner Foley and seconded by Commissioner Park-Jones. Matt Havlik agreed to send this information to the Village Manager's Office.
- Discussion of April Communications Items: The Commission looked ahead to the April communication items and agreed upon who will draft articles for each topic.

5) Committee/Staff Reports:

- Winnetka 150: Founder's Day Celebration: Matt Havlik told the Commission that the Winnetka 150: Founder's Day Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, March 10th at 2:00PM at the Winnetka Community House. Matt Havlik told the Commission that everyone is encouraged to attend.
- SolSmart Update: Matt Havlik addressed the Commission on the status of the Village in The Solar Foundation's SolSmart program. Matt Havlik said that permitting staff

completed the first draft of the required permitting checklist. Matt Havlik also stated that The Solar Foundation completed their review of Winnetka's zoning codes in regard to solar-related projects and submitted documentation to staff. Matt Havlik said that staff is currently reviewing the zoning review and exploring options to make solar-related project less restrictive for residents and businesses in terms of zoning. Matt Havlik added that he is working with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus on hosting a Solar Ambassador for an evening that would be open to the public to attend. The purpose of a Solar Ambassador is to educate residents on the process and benefits of installing solar in or on their homes and to answer any questions residents may have. Matt Havlik also stated that hosting a Solar Ambassador would earn the Village points toward SolSmart designation. Matt ensured the Commission that the Village is on track to receiving at least bronze SolSmart designation by spring of 2019.

c) Activity Calendar:

- i) Green Awards: Matt Havlik told the Commission that two nominations have been received this past month. The first nomination is for the residents at 855 Auburn Road for various yard projects they completed including vegetable beds, a hoop house, and native plantings. The second nomination is for the residents at 420 Birch Street for water/stormwater related projects including the installation of multiple sump pumps. Commissioner Kunkle added that she nominated both families.

Trustee Cripe recommended looking into nominating Cook County, New Trier and the Winnetka Park District for their stormwater-related work this past year. The Commission agreed this was a good idea.

- 6) Open Forum: Commissioner Kunkle told the group that she has been in contact with President Rintz regarding a new program called GRCorps. The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus is seeking GRC communities who wish to host a GRCorps member for 10 months of service to support local sustainability goals that are aligned with the Greenest Region Compact (GRC). As a host community, Winnetka would share the cost of hosting a full-time GRCorps member and provided meaningful work and supervision. The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus will handle program administration. Cost-wise, municipalities are required to share the cost of the GRCorps members' living allowance, health insurance, travel and other fringe costs. This cost is estimated to be about \$17,000 for the 10 months of service. The AmeriCorps grant to the Mayors Caucus (if awarded) will cover the remainder of the cost to support the GRCorps member and administer the program.

Commissioner Kunkle added that she thought a GRCorps member could assist with the business district recycling program by going door-to-door and education businesses.

Commissioner Kunkle also thought that this person could help with restoration along the Green Bay Trail in conjunction with the Friends of the Green Bay Trail.

Chairperson Dowding inquired about the status of the Park District liaison. Matt Havlik stated that President Rintz is aware of this request and will get back to the Commission.

Commissioner Kunkle stated that she attended a focus group meeting last week for the Friends of the Green Bay Trail in Glencoe. The group is still planning to continue collaboration with communities from Highland Park to Wilmette.

Commissioner Kunkle also informed the Commission about “blue zones.” Blue zones are regions of the world where people live much longer than average.

- 7) Public Comment: None.
- 8) Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Foley. Having the motion passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.