

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
March 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, March 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, Rosann Park-Jones, Mike Nielsen, David Varca and Liz Kunkle. Voting Members absent: Chris Foley and Barry Sylvester. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Ex-officio Members present: None. Village Council Representative Absent: 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 February 13, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes: Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the February 13, 2019 minutes which was moved by Commissioner Nielsen and seconded by Commissioner Park-Jones.
 - b) January 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes (As Amended): Chairperson Dowding stated that the amended January 9, 2019 meeting minutes are included in the packet for reference. Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the January 9, 2019 amended minutes which was moved by Commissioner Varca and seconded by Commissioner Nielsen.
- 3) New Business, Old Business/Updates:
 - a) Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact 2 Discussion:
 - i) GRC2 Framework: There was no discussion on this item.
 - ii) Report to Village Council: Chairperson Dowding directed the Commission to the list of goals in the packet that the Commission has compiled to date. Chairperson Dowding thanked Commissioner Foley, Varca and Kunkle for their work on developing goals to recommend to Village Council. The Commission spent the next hour talking about each recommendation in greater detail and talking about how to

communicate the information to the Village Council in a clear and concise manner. Commissioner Kunkle noted that the new presentation date is the April 16th Village Council meeting. Chairperson Dowding said that he may not be able to make the meeting due to travel obligations but will do his best to be there.

The Commission discussed the format of the presentation to Village Council. Matt Havlik said that he anticipates the presentation being 20-30 minutes long with approximately 10-15 slides of material in a PowerPoint format. Commissioner Kunkle agreed to do the presentation. Matt Havlik noted that he will be there and can provide assistance if needed. Matt Havlik told the Commission that the agenda materials are due to the Village Manager's office the Wednesday prior to the meeting and that he wants to review the material a few days before with staff.

The Commission continued discussing GRC2 goals related to water, land, waste, recycling and energy. The Commission discussed studies, policies and education aspects related to each category. The group also discussed which items would require a proposed ordinance, staff direction or Commission direction from the Village Council.

4) Communications:

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

5) Committee/Staff Reports:

- a) SolSmart Update: Matt Havlik addressed the Commission on the status of the Village in The Solar Foundation's SolSmart program. Matt Havlik told the Commission that the Village will be hosting a Solar Ambassador, through the Illinois Solar Energy Association, on Monday, March 18th at 6:00 PM at Village Hall. Matt Havlik explained that Solar Ambassadors are volunteers who help educate residents about solar power and answer any solar-related questions. Matt Havlik also added that this non-technical presentation will cover the basics of residential solar systems, including actual results

from the presenter's experiences of converting his last 2 homes to solar energy. Matt Havlik welcomed everyone to attend.

Matt Havlik also told the Commission that he converted the Commission's "Energy" webpage to a "Solar Landing" page, which will count toward points through the SolSmart program. Matt Havlik stated that he posted numerous resources on the page and encouraged everyone to take a look.

Matt Havlik told the Commission that the deadline for the Village to have all of its documentation due to SolSmart is by the last day of March, and added that staff is on track to doing so. Matt Havlik also added that the SolSmart designation event is scheduled for Friday, May 10th at Argonne National Laboratory. Matt Havlik noted that he is planning on attending the event.

- b) Green Awards: Matt Havlik told the Commission that two nominations have been received for this year's Green Awards program. 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.

Matt Havlik also mentioned that Sacred Heart School contacted him inquiring about submitting an application for a project. Matt Havlik stated that he is working with staff from the school on getting an application submitted.

Matt Havlik told the Commission that the Green Awards are scheduled to be presented at the May 7th 2019 Village Council meeting. The Commission discussed that they will finalize the award recipients at the April Commission meeting. Matt Havlik stated that once award recipients are finalized, he will go ahead and order the plaques.

- c) Activity Calendar:

- i) Recycling Receptacles in Business Districts: Matt Havlik provided an update to the Commission regarding the status of recycling receptacles in the commercial districts. Matt reminded the Commission that three new locations were added in 2018 by Grand Foods, Chestnut Court and by the BP Station. Matt Havlik also told the Commission that in total, there are approximately 60 receptacles spread throughout the commercial districts.

- ii) Special Recycling Programs: Matt Havlik provided an update to the Commission regarding collections of special materials at the Village Yards facility. Matt told the Commission that the Village still collects Styrofoam, CFL bulbs, 4 foot fluorescent bulbs, holiday lights, small electronics and used tennis shoes. Matt Havlik provided a handout with totals of recycling material collected through each program. Matt Havlik also noted that the Village's light bulb vendor, Everlights, switched from a pick-up program to a mailing program at the end of 2017. Commissioner Park-Jones asked what happens to the Styrofoam after it is picked up. Matt Havlik said he would contact Dart Container to find out.
- iii) Lakeshore Recycling Systems Update: Matt Havlik provided an update to the Commission regarding tonnage and rebates from the Village's recycling contractor, Lakeshore Recycling Systems. Matt Havlik handed out a tonnage report of material that was collected from 2016 to present. Matt Havlik also informed the Commission that a total of \$19,883.10 was received by the Village as a rebate in 2018 from Lakeshore Recycling Systems.

Chairperson Dowding asked what happens to the rebate money that the Village receives every year. Matt Havlik said that the rebate funds are deposited into the Village's general fund. The Commission discussed possibly using this rebate money in the future for sustainability-related projects.

- 6) Open Forum: Commissioner Nielsen inquired about the status of the information stickers to put on recycling bins that the Commission had discussed this past fall. Matt Havlik indicated that he contacted Lakeshore Recycling Systems about this item and was informed that such stickers are a possibility. Matt Havlik said he would follow back up with Lakeshore Recycling Systems as to how the logistics of this would work.

Commissioner Kunkle updated the Commission on the status of the Park District liaison discussion. Commissioner Kunkle stated that she spoke to the Park District Board's President, Mickey Archambault, who indicated he is in favor of dedicating a standing Park District member to the Village's Environmental and Forestry Commission (EFC). Commissioner Kunkle stated that she asked about other options and that Presidents Rintz is open to appointing a Park District representative to an At-Large position that would have set term limits.

Commissioner Kunkle told the Commission that she attended the Go Green Illinois meeting and that the overarching message of the meeting was conservation and open lands. Commissioner Kunkle reminded the Commission that Trustee Cripe stated that the Village Council is also interested in promoting conservation efforts throughout the Village.

Commissioner Kunkle also stated that the Village of Glencoe has a Sustainability Task Force that allows for multiple student members to be a part of the group. Commissioner Kunkle said that Glencoe allows middle school aged students to be on the task force. Commissioner Kunkle expressed that the Commission should think about potentially adding additional student representatives.

Commissioner Kunkle also told the Commission that she heard the City of Highland Park is looking into purchasing an electric police car, which would make them the first community in the area to do so.

Commissioner Kunkle also told the Commission that the Village of Glencoe started offering curbside compost pick-up service approximately six months ago through their recycling provider, Lakeshore Recycling Systems. Commissioner Kunkle noted that Glencoe also has a community drop off location at their public works building for residents to bring food scraps to. This compost material is then transported to the Glencoe Community Garden for use. The Commission discussed the possibility of starting a similar program in Winnetka.

Commissioner Kunkle also told the Commission that the City of Park Ridge and the Park Ridge Park District have officially adopted an integrated pest management (IPM) policy.

Chairperson Dowding inquired about registration for insecticide applicators in the Village now that mosquito season is approaching. The Commission discussed ideas about how the Village can monitor the spraying of insecticides and limit harmful exposure.

- 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 Nielsen. Having the motion passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.