

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
April 10, 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, April 10, 2019, at 7:00 pm.

Call to Order: Acting Chairperson Varca called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; voting Members present: David Varca, Rosann Park-Jones, Barry Sylvester and Liz Kunkle. Voting Members absent: Chuck Dowding, Chris Foley and Mike Nielsen. 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: Acting Chairperson Varca 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 March 13, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes: Acting Chairperson Varca asked for a motion to approve the March 13, 2019 minutes which was moved by Commissioner Park-Jones and seconded by Commissioner Sylvester.
 - b) February 13, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes (As Amended): Acting Chairperson Varca stated that the amended February 13, 2019 meeting minutes are included in the packet for reference. Acting Chairperson Varca asked for a motion to approve the February 13, 2019 amended minutes which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Sylvester.
- 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: Commissioner Kunkle stated that Matt Havlik assisted with putting together the report and PowerPoint presentation to Village Council that is to be presented at the April 16th Village Council meeting. Commissioner Kunkle told the Commission that she is planning on giving the presentation on that night.

Commissioner Kunkle also added that she, Chairperson Dowding and Matt Havlik met last week briefly to go over the report and presentation. Commissioner Kunkle noted that she agreed to remove some photos from the presentation that showed extreme flooding events as this would take away from the focus of the presentation of the GRC2.

Matt Havlik added that Steve Saunders looked over the report and presentation and provided some additional suggestions to the recommendations to Village Council section. Matt Havlik also noted that the agenda materials were due today so everything is all ready to go.

Commissioner Kunkle noted that at a previous Village Council meeting, President Rintz mentioned the Village will be updating its 2020 comprehensive plan and that inclusion of the GRC2 would be a good idea. Commissioner Kunkle also added that the EFC and Village Council should focus on sustainability policy moving forward as well as stay open to other possibilities in the future regarding sustainability matters.

Commissioner Kunkle told the Commission that the three focus areas of the report and presentation are water, energy and waste. Of these three focus areas, each contain studies, policies and education sections. Commissioner Kunkle also added that the Commission reviewed 424 items in the GRC2 framework. Commissioner Kunkle stated that as part of the presentation, the EFC will be recommending to incorporate the GRC2 into the Village's EFC webpage.

The Commission reviewed the report and presentation and agreed that the main the EFC should recommend the following work plan regarding the GRC2:

- The Council should consider incorporating elements of the GRC2 framework, as tailored for Winnetka through the EFC's review and analysis, into Winnetka's Comprehensive Plan. This would document the Village's sustainability goals in a real and forward-looking way so that the Village Council and EFC can continue working on identified implementation plans.
- The EFC will incorporate elements of the GRC2 framework, as tailored for Winnetka through the EFC's review and analysis, into the EFC's Strategic Plan, so the EFC can continue bringing focused recommendation to the current and future Village Councils.

- The EFC requests policy direction on whether to begin and/or continue pursuing the EFC's three recommended environmental priorities for the Village, namely Waste, Water, and Energy.
- The EFC intends to provide regular status reports to the Council and community on progress toward meeting stated goals and deadlines.

Trustee Cripe added that looking at the Village's comprehensive plan is a good idea. Trustee Cripe noted that sustainability and environmental topics are of interest to the current Village Council. There are sustainability and environmental items in the current plan, but they appear to be outdated. Trustee Cripe also added that he thinks the GRC2 recommendations to Village Council are great and looks forward to the meeting next week.

Commissioner Kunkle added that the Commission should think about basing the sustainability and environmental section of the comprehensive plan off of the GRC2 material. Commissioner Kunkle noted that the energy section of the GRC2 is uniquely relevant to Winnetka because of its power plant, thus being a lot of future opportunities. Commissioner Kunkle added that this is an important category to keep on the radar for upcoming discussions. The Commission discussed how it is easier to encourage solar on residential homes and that it is tougher to encourage on commercial buildings. Acting Chairperson Varca stated that the Commission could possibly assist with future energy discussions and do research and studies for the Village Council.

- 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 told the Commission that the Green Awards are scheduled to be presented at the May 7th 2019 Village Council meeting. The Commission discussed the two applicants in further detail and agreed that both applicants are deserving of an award. Acting Chairperson Varca asked for a motion to approve the 2019 Green Awards for each of the two applicants which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Sylvester. Matt Havlik stated that he will go ahead and order the plaques.

The Commission discussed reaching out to the following organizations next year and encourage them to submit applications for a Green Award:

- North Shore County Day (composting)
- Hadley School (new building)
- Park District
- New Trier
- Sacred Heart

4) Communications:

- Approval of May Communications Items: The Commission discussed the draft articles for the month of May and agreed that they can be sent to the Village Manager's office for posting. Acting Chairperson Varca asked for a motion to approve the May communications items which were moved by Commissioner Sylvester and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle. Matt Havlik agreed to send this information to the Village Manager's Office.
- Discussion of June Communications Items: The Commission looked ahead to the June communication items and agreed upon who will draft articles for each topic. Commissioner Park-Jones suggested adding a photo to the June article regarding Buckthorn. Matt Havlik said that he will add a photo.

- 5) Committee/Staff Report: Matt Havlik told the Commission that all documentation has been submitted to the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus on behalf of the Solar Foundation for SolSmart designation. Matt Havlik also said that the designation event is scheduled for May 9th at Argonne National Laboratory at 10:30AM. Matt Havlik said he will be attending and invited anybody else that would like to attend.

Commissioner Kunkle inquired about the use of recycling Styrofoam material that Commissioner Park-Jones inquired about at the last meeting. Matt Havlik said he contacted the Village's Styrofoam recycling, Dart Container Corporation, whom explained that the majority of Styrofoam is used for making picture frames.

- 6) Open Forum: Commissioner Kunkle suggested that the Village host an event around Earth Day and Arbor Day in the future. This could be a Village-sponsored event. Commissioner Kunkle also noted that Earth Day always fall on the week of the Village's clean-up week. Matt Havlik told the Commission that the Village Forester, Jim Stier, will have tree saplings available for residents on Earth Day at the Public Works Facility and the Village Hall.

Commissioner Kunkle also stated that the Commission should be more involved in the planning process for the Downtown Master Plan. Specifically, by repainting of the recycling

and garbage containers throughout the business districts to easily distinguish garbage from recycling.

- 7) Public Comment: None.
- 8) Adjournment: There being no further business, Acting Chairperson Varca asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Sylvester. Having the motion passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.