

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
May 8, 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, May 8, 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, David Varca, Rosann Park-Jones, Liz Kunkle, Chris Foley and Mike Nielsen. Voting Members absent: 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 April 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes: Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the April 10, 2019 minutes which was moved by Commissioner Varca and seconded by Commissioner Nielsen.
 - b) March 13, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes (As Amended): Chairperson Dowding stated that the amended March 13, 2019 meeting minutes are included in the packet for reference. Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the March 13, 2019 amended minutes which was moved by Commissioner Varca and seconded by Commissioner Nielsen.
- 3) New Business, Old Business/Updates:
 - a) Greenest Region Compact 2 Presentation Recap: Chairperson Dowding asked Commissioner Kunkle if she would provide the Commission with a summary of the GRC2 presentation on April 16th. Commissioner Kunkle stated that it was a long meeting and that two New Trier students presented about composting as part of a research assignment they are doing. Commissioner Kunkle noted that the meeting was longer than usual because of the consideration and discussion of a new proposed wedding venue in Hubbard Woods which went until about 9:20 PM.

Commissioner Kunkle said that the presentation recommended three big picture priorities, being waste, water and energy, for the Village Council to acknowledge and adopt. At the end of the presentation and discussion, the Village Council directed the Commission to come back at a later time to suggest more specific items for consideration, such as recommendations of top 10 items that the EFC came up with.

Commissioner Kunkle stated that she made sure to focus on and explain the big-picture aspects and priorities. Commissioner Kunkle stated that Trustee Wedner wanted to know about associated costs for implementing some of the EFC's recommendations.

Commissioner Kunkle also said that Trustee Lanphier expressed that the "energy" section seemed like the most difficult. The Village Council spoke about how energy is a big item as well as a big opportunity for the Village. Trustee Lanphier said that energy may not seem urgent now, but will be in the future and that communities need to start planning now. Commissioner Kunkle said that she told the Village Council that other communities are making plans and commitments for energy reduction with future target dates such as 2030 and 2050.

Commissioner Kunkle told the Commission that at the end of the presentation and discussion, that all of the Trustees accepted and acknowledged all recommendations. Commissioner Kunkle also thanked Trustee Cripe for being there and facilitating the discussion. Commissioner Kunkle stated that the Village Council seemed to be on-board with the GRC2 plan, but careful with its commitments. Commissioner Kunkle told the Commission that the Village Council voted to move forward with all of the EFC's recommendations.

Commissioner Kunkle also added that a handful of residents were there to provide public comments related to composting. Commissioner Kunkle stated that Trustee Myers is going to be working with the two New Trier students on implementing a food scrap composting program at the Music Fest this year.

Commissioner Kunkle informed the Commission that she attended the April 25th refuse discussion meeting. Commissioner Kunkle noted that the main topics of conversation included commercial refuse pick-up, residential back door vs. curbside pick-up and food scrap composting. Commissioner Kunkle told the Commission that at the end of the meeting, Village Council directed staff to explore food scrap composting options and to look at third party contractors, such as Collective Resource, who provide a bucket service. Commissioner Kunkle also added that there was no discussion about outsourcing refuse collection. Commissioner Kunkle said that Village staff is working on identifying

food scrap composters and implementing a Village-wide program. Matt Havlik added that staff is in the process of meeting with potential vendors and working on how to make composting more accessible and available to all residents.

Chairperson Dowding asked if the EFC is waiting on further direction from Village Council. Commissioner Kunkle responded by saying that there is no reason the Commission cannot get started now, mentioning that one of the asking points was for regular reports to Village Council.

Chairperson Dowding directed the Commission's attention to the EFC webpage revisions. Matt Havlik explained that in the past, the Commission has requested to revise the EFC webpage to include pages associated with the ten categories of the GRC2 framework. Matt Havlik suggested to the Commission to rename/reorganize the current six "buttons" on the EFC webpage, to avoid a costly design change by American Eagle. The Commission discussed renaming the six heading buttons to contain the new category names. Matt Havlik said he will coordinate this change with the Village Manager's Office.

Commissioner Kunkle stated that it would be best for the Commission to report back to Village Council every six months on progress of various GRC2 items. Commissioner Varca added that this might be a good time for the Commission to start familiarizing itself with the Village's comprehensive plan. Chairperson Foley said this is a good idea as the Village Council is planning on beginning revisions to the comprehensive plan in the near future and that the Plan Commission is leading this large undertaking.

Commissioner Kunkle added that in the short term, the Commission can start brainstorming and incorporating updated initiatives into the EFC's strategic plan and that the Village Council is open to having ideas to pursue related to the GRC2.

Chairperson Dowding asked what else the Commission can begin working on. Matt Havlik stated that Village staff is currently working on follow up items from the refuse discussion including food scrap composting, commercial collection, and curbside vs. backdoor pick-up options. Commissioner Kunkle suggested that EFC members should come to the June meeting with ideas for action items.

Commissioner Varca added that the GRC2 presentation was very well put together and was short, concise and to the point. Overall, it was an effective presentation.

- b) 2019 Green Awards (May 21 Village Council Meeting): Matt Havlik told the Commission that the Green Awards presentation has been moved to the May 21st Village

Council Meeting. Matt Havlik stated that he notified both award recipients and has the plaques ready for the ceremony.

4) Communications:

- a) Approval of June Communications Items: The Commission discussed the draft articles for the month of June and agreed that they can be sent to the Village Manager's office for posting. Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the June 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.
- b) Discussion of July Communications Items: The Commission looked ahead to the July communication items and agreed upon who will draft articles for each topic.

5) Committee/Staff Report:

- a) SolSmart: Matt Havlik told the Commission he was officially notified by The Solar Foundation that the Village has achieved bronze level designation as a SolSmart community. Matt Havlik stated that Trustee Cripe and he will be attending the designation ceremony at Argonne National Laboratory tomorrow on May 9th.
- 6) Open Forum: Commissioner Kunkle expressed to the Commission that she attended the Village Council meeting last night and thanked Trustee Meyers as it was his last meeting. Commissioner Kunkle stated that she addressed the Village Council during the public comment period and mentioned that the Village should consider repainting the refuse bins from green to black in the commercial district to help distinguish between the garbage and recycling. Commissioner Kunkle also added that the Park District is starting to do the same thing.

Commissioner Kunkle told the Commissioner that she thinks the Village should organize a future earth day/week event in the future, similar to Evanston's.

Commissioner Foley asked the Commission if moving the public comment period to the front of future agendas would be beneficial. The Commission agreed this would be more convenient for the public at future meetings. Matt Havlik stated he will move the public comment item on the agenda to the beginning for future meetings.

7) Public Comment: None.

- 8) Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Varca and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle. Having the motion passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

DRAFT