

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
June 12, 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, June 12, 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 and Liz Kunkle. Voting Members absent: David Varca, Mike Nielsen and Barry Sylvester. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Ex-officio Members present: None. Village Council Representative Absent: Anne Wedner. Student Representative Absent: Clark O'Bryan. Staff Representative Present: Matt Havlik, Public Works Analyst. Others Present: Jim Stier, Village Forester, Andrew Lueck, Assistant Village Forester. 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) Public Comment: None.
- 3) Review and Summary of Minutes:
 - a) Adoption of the May 8, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes: Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the May 8, 2019 minutes which was moved by Commissioner Foley and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle.
 - b) April 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes (As Amended): Chairperson Dowding stated that the amended April 10, 2019 meeting minutes are included in the packet for reference. Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the April 10, 2019 amended minutes which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Foley.
- 4) New Business, Old Business/Updates:
 - a) Forestry Update: Jim Stier, Village Forester, stated that he was happy to be at the meeting tonight and introduced Andrew Lueck, Assistant Village Forester. Jim Stier directed the Commission's attention to Andrew Lueck who began his presentation about current forestry operations within the Village. Andrew Lueck announced that he has been working on updating the Village's tree inventory and that there are approximately 12,000 trees in the public right-of-way in Winnetka. The top three species of parkway trees are

maple, oak and elm. Andrew Lueck also mentioned that the Village is currently working on diversifying its tree inventory.

The Village completes annual pruning of approximately 2,000 parkway trees each year. This year, efforts have been focused in the northwest corner of town. The Village uses both Advanced Tree Care and Nels Johnson for trimming work. Regarding tree removals, the Village aims to replace trees one-for-one. In 2018, 187 trees were removed via required tree removal permits which are for tree over 8+ inches in diameter. For all trees that are not dead, dying or diseased, residents are required to pay a security deposit for removal of trees and receive the deposit back once they replace trees, inch for inch.

Andrew Lueck also explained that the Village is currently treating Ash trees infected with Emerald Ash Borer. There are approximately 400 parkway Ash trees remaining. Dutch Elm Disease has also become a concern and the Village is taking all precautions necessary to reduce infections. Regarding the Village's Parkway Tree Planting program, 128 parkway trees were planted in 2018. Andrew Lueck mentioned that any residents who want a parkway tree can complete a parkway tree planting application and submit it to the Village's Forestry staff for review.

- b) 2019 Green Award Recipients: Matt Havlik told the Commission that he attended the May 21st Village Council meeting where he presented the green awards to the two recipients. Overall, the program ceremony was well-received.
- c) Comprehensive Planning Discussion: Commissioner Foley explained that he is the EFC representative for the Village's Plan Commission. Commissioner Foley stated that the Village is in the processes of planning to re-create its comprehensive plan, with the help of a consultant. Commissioner Foley added that incorporating elements from the GRC2 would be a good idea for future discussions about the comprehensive plan. Chairperson Dowding stated that representatives from all of the Village's boards and commissions are meeting tomorrow to discuss processes for developing a new Village-wide comprehensive plan. Chairperson Dowding said there will be a survey and public comment period to collect data. Chairperson Dowding told the Commission that it would be a good idea to reach out to other communities in the area who have done similar sustainability-related revisions to their comprehensive plans.

Commissioner Kunkle stated that she knew Northfield recently incorporated sustainability objectives into their new comprehensive plan. Commissioner Foley requested that the Commission keep a standing item for comprehensive plan discussions on future agendas. Commissioner Kunkle added that the Commission should include

Trustee Cripe as a resource for future discussions as he has been closely involved in the adoption of the GRC2.

- d) EFC Website Revisions: Matt Havlik told the Commission that he met with the Village's Communications Manager, Josie Clark, about the proposed EFC webpage revisions. Josie Clark recommended creating a vertical list of the 10 proposed buttons on the EFC homepage to provide for a more responsive design for mobile phone use. The Commission agreed this is a good idea and instructed Matt Havlik to work with the Village's Communication Manager on the proposed revisions.
- e) Rain-Ready Program: Commissioner Kunkle provided a brief overview of the Center for Neighborhood Technology's Rain-Ready program which provides policies and practices that help residents and entire communities plan for weather events associated with global climate change. Commissioner Kunkle stated that this program may be a good idea to pursue at some point as it related to the water section of the GRC2. Commissioner Kunkle also mentioned that the Rain-Ready program also has a grant program that Wilmette ~~has used~~ recently started implementing.

5) Communications:

- a) Approval of July Communications Items: The Commission discussed the draft articles for the month of July 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 Park-Jones and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle. Matt Havlik agreed to send this information to the Village Manager's Office.
- b) Discussion of August Communications Items: The Commission looked ahead to the August communication items and agreed upon who will draft articles for each topic.

6) Committee/Staff Report:

- a) SolSmart Designation: Matt Havlik told the Commission Trustee Cripe and he attended the designation ceremony at Argonne National Laboratory on May 9th. Matt Havlik stated that the Village received a plaque for bronze designation, which he brought with him.
- 7) Open Forum: Commissioner Kunkle told the Commission that the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) has made a commitment to incorporating more wind energy into its portfolio. Specifically, IMEA has entered into a 15-year agreement to purchase 50 megawatts of wind energy output annually from the Green River Wind Farm located in Lee and

Whiteside Counties in northwestern Illinois. 32 municipalities across the state are members of IMEA.

Commissioner Kunkle also stated that 128 gallons of compostable food waste and paper products were collected last weekend at the Winnetka Children's Fair. Commissioner Kunkle explained that she helped facilitate the collection of compost through a local composting company, Collective Resource. Commissioner Kunkle also stated that there are plans for composting at the Winnetka Music Festival in a couple of weeks.

- 8) Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Foley and seconded by Commissioner Park-Jones. Having the motion passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.