

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
August 14, 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, August 14, 2019, at 7:00 pm.

Call to Order: Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; voting Members present: Chairperson Chuck Dowding, Liz Kunkle, Chris Foley, Barry Sylvester and Mike Nielsen. Voting Members absent: Rosann Park-Jones, David Varca. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Ex-officio Members present: none. Village Council Representative Anne Wedner, and Village President Chris Rintz: Student Representative Absent: Clark O'Bryan. Staff Representative Present: James Bernahl, Assistant Director of Public Works and Engineering. 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: No public comments.
- 3) Review and Summary of Minutes:
 - a) Adoption of the July 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes (As Amended): Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the July 10, 2019 minutes which was moved by Commissioner Foley and seconded by Commissioner Nielsen.
 - b) Adoption of the June, 12, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes (As Amended): Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the June 12, 2019 minutes which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Sylvester.
- 4) New Business, Old Business/Updates:
 - a) Comprehensive Planning Discussion: An overview discussion lead by guest speaker, President Rintz, was given to the Commission members on the upcoming Comprehensive Plan. The goal was to remind the members that as the Commission moves forward to keep in mind not only the future vision but also the current and potential future social issues. These items could include the use of solar panels both publicly and privately, future real-estate sustainability, and the importance of LEED certifications in future projects. President Rintz highlighted the roadmap created by the adoption of the GRC2 and how it's a good checklist of things to consider for the future. The Commission

members were also reminded that this study is undertaken about every 20 years, so members should think big picture. President Rintz also asked the member's to think about how best these recommendations could be brought forward to the Village Council.

Commissioner Foley indicated that when the Village selects the consultant the Commission would like to have the consultant come to a future meeting to discuss the GRC2. Chairperson Dowding asked if the RFP for the Comprehensive Plan included a reference to the GRC2 documents and Assistant Director Bernahl confirmed that it was included in the RFP.

Chairperson Dowding indicated that the group should think about how they will want to be involved with the development of the Comprehensive Plan. Chairperson Dowding also agreed that having the chosen consultant attend a future meeting to discuss the Comprehensive Plan would be a good idea. Chairperson Dowding said that he would also be interested in inviting other environmental groups and understand what they would like to see in the Comprehensive plan. Commissioner Kunkle indicated that this approach would be better than seeking written comments and then trying to add these items into the Comprehensive Plan at a later date.

Commissioner Nielsen indicated that he believed that it would be good for the group to revisit the GRC2 and begin to focus on the options that most appropriately will work with Comprehensive Plan. Trustee Wedner agreed and asked if the Commission could refine the GRC2 and provide a list of the key items that they would like to see encompassed into the Comprehensive Plan. Chairmen Dowding recommended pulling out the Commissioners' top ten lists of initiatives to begin to focus on what they believe is most attainable and perhaps develop even preliminary costs. Chairmen Dowding requested that Assist Director Bernahl send an email to the Commission members asking each of them to revisit the GRC2 document and bring a list of each member's top 10 items they would like to see in the Comprehensive Plan. Assistant Director Bernahl indicated that he would send out the email to the Commission members.

Trustee Wedner had reminded the group that they need be aware of the budgeting process and should consider this when thinking about future costs and implementation. Commissioner Kunkle indicated that when the members come to the next meeting they could discuss how these will best be implemented in a long term capital plan.

- b) EFC Website Revisions: Chairperson Dowding presented to the Commission copies of proposed changes to the EFC website page. These changes include modifications to the existing text and the addition of icons from the GRC2 document for consistency and reduction of page space. The Commission members agreed on the proposed changes, and

James Bernahl indicated that he would discuss these modifications with the Village Administrative Office on how best to implement.

- c) International Energy Conservation Code (IECC): Commissioner Kunkle presented to the Commission some general information about the IECC program, which sets efficiency requirements for newly-constructed and renovated buildings, and the opportunity for the Village to consider providing input to update the IECC, upon which America's Model Energy Code is based. Commissioner Kunkle stated that the last time input was solicited, three years ago, only .5% of the local government officials in the US that were eligible to vote exercised their option to do so. Commissioner Kunkle also indicated that the Village had a representative, former Community Development Director Mike D'Onofrio, in the past and now a new representative needed to be selected. The new representative must designate 4 people (staff and/or Village officials) by September 23, 2019 who will then cast votes on possible updates to the IECC in mid-November 2019. James indicated that he would present this information to Village Manager Rob Bahan for consideration.

5) Communications:

- a) Approval of September Communications Items: The Commission discussed the draft articles for the month of September. Commissioner Kunkle raised some concerns about providing more guidance in selecting the appropriate articles. The Commission as a whole agreed that they would like to remove the three proposed articles for September and replace them with the February articles "Zero Waste School Lunches (Parts 1&2) - Pack the Right Stuff (and the Right Amount)." Commissioner Kunkle indicated that she would update these articles and forward them to Assist Director Bernahl for publication. The Commission members unanimously agreed that this was a good idea. Assistant Director Bernahl agreed to send this information to the Village Manager's Office.

Commissioner Kunkle asked whether the Commission could take a closer look at the list of articles and perhaps update the content and scheduling. Chairperson Dowding agreed to bring this topic up at the next meeting.

- b) Discussion of October Communications Items: The Commission looked ahead to the October communication items and agreed that it would update the articles and context based on further discussions in September.
- 6) Commission/Staff Report: Assistant Director Bernahl notified Chairperson Dowding that there was no report for this month.
- 7) Open Forum: Trustee Wedner informed the Commission that, based on some of the comments raised in the past about pursuing an electric vehicle charging station, the Village

will be looking to install one in the Post Office Parking lot as one of the improvements being done as part of the Streetscape project.

Commissioner Kunkle provided a quick overview of a funding program, “Rain Ready” offered by a company called the Center for Neighborhood Technology. Commissioner Kunkle offered that the program provides subsidies for stormwater solutions for private property, she believes that this is a priority for the Village, and would like to look into this program for the future. Commissioner Kunkle believes that the program could help to incentivize people to make these improvements on their property. Commissioner Kunkle will see if she can have someone from the organization come and present on the program perhaps for the September meeting. She also said that Wilmette just did this program with their residents as well.

Commissioner Kunkle also asked about the status of the Commission’s student representatives, as she believes that the currently designated student representative, Clark O’Bryan, may have graduated. Commissioner Kunkle also wondered if the Commission could have two student representatives, or an alternate, to increase the chances of student attendance at the Commission’s meetings. Commissioner Dowding indicated that a single student representative is dictated by Village ordinance. Commissioner Kunkle indicated that she would check with the Environmental Club at New Trier High School to see if a Club member might be interested in being the student representative.

- 8) Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Nielsen and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle. The motion having passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.