

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
October 9, 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, October 9, 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, Rosann Park-Jones, Chris Foley, Mike Nielsen and David Varca. Voting Members absent: Barry Sylvester. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Ex-officio Members present: none. Village Council Representative absent: Anne Wedner. Student Representative present: Marcus Buccellato. Staff Representatives present: James Bernahl, Assistant Director of Public Works and Engineering and Brendon Mendoza, Public Works Analyst. Public present: Ted Wynnychenko.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all Commission members. The new Student Representative Marcus Buccellato was introduced. Staff representative Brendon Mendoza was also introduced to the Commission as the Village's new Public Works Analyst.

2) Public Comment:

Mr. Wynnychenko stated that the Village should review how it provides storm water credits. Mr. Wynnychenko stated that he believed that native plants absorb more water than trees. Mr. Wynnychenko mentioned that he was considering reconstructing a portion of his parkway and installing a raingarden, however the Village Engineer had indicated that this would not be permitted.

3) Review and Summary of Minutes:

a) Approval of the July 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes (As Amended):

Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the July 10, 2019 minutes as amended which was moved by Commissioner Nielsen and seconded by Commissioner Foley.

b) Adoption of the August 14, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes:

Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the August 14, 2019 minutes which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Nielsen.

4) New Business, Old Business/Updates:

a) Review of GRC2 Primary Goals for 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update:

Commissioner Foley reported that he has been involved in the Village's comprehensive planning discussion with the Village's Plan Commission. Through the most recent Village Plan Commission Meeting, he stated the Plan Commission discussed items to be included in the Village's comprehensive plan. Commissioner Foley stated that sustainability was suggested to be included in the Village's comprehensive plan. The Commission collectively discussed ideas for the Village's comprehensive plan.

The Commission asked Village staff to review the "Proposed Consensus Recommendation from the GRC2 Framework" and provide feedback. Staff representatives agreed to review the proposed recommendations and provide feedback at the November EFC meeting. Commissioner Varca mentioned that the Commission should review the list and select the items that are important to the Commission as time has passed and the group may want to reprioritize items. The group will bring their updated recommendations to the November EFC meeting.

Chairperson Dowding asked the Commission if it would be worthwhile to meet with other local organizations to discuss environmental suggestions for the Village's comprehensive plan. Staff representative Bernahl asked Chairperson Dowding to discuss with Village Manager, Rob Bahan on how to proceed with inviting other organizations, as they may already be included in the current comprehensive plan discussions.

b) EFC Website Revisions:

Staff representative Bernahl provided an overview of the revisions made to the EFC website from the suggestions at the previous EFC meeting. Staff representative Bernahl mentioned that Village is in the process of updating the Village's website.

c) RainReady Update:

Commissioner Kunkle recently spoke with staff from the Center for Neighborhood Technology ("CNT") Rainready Initiative. Commissioner Kunkle discussed the potential program and how it would operate. Commissioner Kunkle asked the group if it would like to meet with the Rainready staff at the November or December EFC Commission Meeting. The Commission agreed that it is a good idea to meet with Rainready staff. Commissioner Kunkle will reach out to Rainready to coordinate.

Commissioner Kunkle mentioned that Community Development and Public Works staff may want to attend the presentation to be given by Rainready staff. Prior to meeting, Chairperson Dowding requested that Commissioner Kunkle ask Rainready staff to review two (2) studies related to storm water and provide their opinion.

5) Communications:

a) Review September Communications Items:

The Commission stated that the new, September communications items were an excellent addition. The Commission stated that the two (2) articles regarding zero waste in school lunches should be included annually.

b) Discussion of October Communications Items:

The Commission reviewed the upcoming October and November communication items and suggested to place a leaf and pumpkin collection information article for October. Staff representative Mendoza will make the changes to the communication items.

6) Commission/Staff Reports: None.

7) Student Representation Update: None.

8) Open Forum:

Commissioner Park-Jones asked for an update on the Hubbard Woods Train Station project and pay as you throw recycling. Staff representative Bernahl provided information for both projects.

Commissioner Kunkle stated that the possibility of RFID chips within refuse containers is exciting. Commissioner Kunkle asked if the RFID chips will be included in upcoming topics. Staff representative Bernahl provided an update.

9) Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Park-Jones and seconded by Commissioner Foley. The motion passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.