

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
December 11, 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, December 11, 2019, at 7:00 pm.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.; Voting Members present: Chairperson Chuck Dowding, Liz Kunkle, Mike Nielsen, David Varca and, Chris Foley. Voting Members absent: Barry Sylvester, and Rosann Park-Jones. 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 Representative present: Brendon Mendoza, Public Works Analyst. Public present: Two representatives of the public; Kate Elli, a student at New Trier High School and Ivy Sundell, a resident of Winnetka.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and welcomed all Commission members and the public.

2) Public Comment:

Kate, a student from New Trier High School was in attendance because she was interested in creating an infographic to provide to Winnetka Residents regarding composting collection.

Mrs. Sundell, a Winnetka resident was interested in helping by conducting research or work to help with environmental issues. She stated she was interested in volunteering.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes:

a) Approval of the November 13, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Kunkle stated to change (shown in red) the language under 6) *Commission/Staff Reports* in the November 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes to read as follows;

“Staff Representative Mendoza mentioned that the Village’s **Annual Pumpkin Collection event led to approximately 670 pumpkins being diverted from landfill and composted.** Commissioner Kunkle stated a good idea may be to have the Park District add a **collection event in addition to the standing Village collection event, which** would allow additional options for residents to compost pumpkins if they are not able to attend the Village’s one day annual pumpkin composting **event and additional programming options for the Park District.**”

Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the November 13, 2019 minutes, which was moved by Commissioner Foley and seconded by Commissioner Nielson.

4) New Business, Old Business/Updates:

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

Commissioner Foley stated that there was not substantial discussion at the November 20, 2019 Planning Meeting regarding the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, but the Plan Commission will be meeting with the Village's comprehensive plan consultant at their January Meeting.

The Commission discussed ideas for the Village's 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The Commission also discussed potential opportunities for sustainability within different aspects of the Village's policies. An example is the Village's Design Guidelines document.

Chairperson Dowding presented to the group a document (included in the agenda packet) regarding the Village's 2020 Comprehensive Plan and its relation to the EFC. The Commission discussed the document and wondered if it is a current document, and if it is, that it needs to be updated. Chairperson Dowding will look into the document further.

Commissioner Foley discussed a draft document (attached) that he created for the long term (or moonshot) goals recommended for inclusion in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. "Minimize or Eliminate Beach Closures due to Bacteria and other Contaminants", "Begin Planning for Extension or Transition Regarding Winnetka's Local Electric Power Plant", and "Consider Impacts of the Limited Remaining Lifespan of our SWANCC Waste Landfills".

Commissioner Varca discussed a draft document (attached) that he created for the long term (or moonshot) goals recommended for inclusion in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. "Redevelop Landfill", "Redevelop Underutilize or Contaminated Properties", and "Manage Water Infrastructure".

Chairperson Dowding asked the group to review these draft long-term recommendations and those discussed earlier and provide edits to Staff Representative Mendoza to make changes.

Commissioner Kunkle followed-up with Evanston's Climate Action and Resilience Plan ("CARP") (attached). Commissioner Kunkle stated that she talked to Evanston's sustainability coordinator, Kumar Jensen about Evanston's CARP. Commissioner Kunkle

stated that CARP was developed by the residents of Evanston and they developed their own goals and objectives. She discussed how it is a model that could be used by the Commission for a possible format for recommendations for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Chairperson Dowding asked Staff Representative Mendoza if Village staff was able to review the GRC2 Recommendation List and provide comments. Staff Representative Mendoza stated that Village staff was able to review the GRC2 Recommendation List, and that there was no feedback regarding recommendations that were not feasible. Staff Representative Mendoza mentioned that an idea would be to consider safety infrastructure for bicycle trails under the mobility section and consider the Village's Electrical Plant for energy goals.

Staff Representative Mendoza mentioned that the Community Development Department is currently collecting information for the Village's consultant to include for ideas for the new comprehensive plan and asked if it would be acceptable to share documents prepared for consideration in preparation of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Chairperson Dowding stated that he would like to meet with the Village's consultant and Community Development Staff to provide context when the documents are provided.

b) RainReady Update:

Commissioner Kunkle stated that RainReady staff were scheduled to present at the December EFC meeting, but will be rescheduled as it would make more sense for the Village's storm water IGAs to be completed prior meeting with RainReady.

5) **Communications:**

a) Review November Communications Items:

The Commission was satisfied with the November Communication items. The Commission stated that it would be beneficial to review communications of future months instead of reviewing the previous month's communication items. Staff Representative Mendoza will make this change moving forward. Commissioner Nielson stated that a pre-spring clean-up article would be good for March and April and could be included in the spring Winnetka Report.

b) Discussion of December Communications Items:

The group reviewed the December Communication items and mentioned minor edits. Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the December Communications Items, which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Varca.

6) **Commission/Staff Reports:** None.

7) **Student Representation Update:** None.

8) **Open Forum:**

Commissioner Kunkle mentioned that the Park District may host a pumpkin collection event in 2020. Commissioner Kunkle also mentioned that there is a local student who has agreed to collect pumpkins next fall and bring them to the composting events. Commissioner Kunkle hopes the Village's fall communications items will include information on the Park District event and pick-up opportunity, in addition to the Public Works Annual Pumpkin Collection.

Commissioner Kunkle mentioned a useful Zero Waste Event guide created by local Go Green Groups. Commissioner Kunkle mentioned the document is a great guideline for those trying to host a zero waste event. Commissioner Kunkle asked to place this document on the Village website. Staff Representative Mendoza stated he will include it on the Village website.

Chairperson Dowding asked for a volunteer to be Chair in his absence at the January 8, 2020 EFC Meeting. Commissioner Varca volunteered.

9) **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Foley and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle. The motion passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.