

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
November 11, 2020

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Environmental and Forestry Commission of the Village of Winnetka, which was held Virtual via Zoom, Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

Oral Declaration Regarding In-Person Meetings

Acting Chairperson Varca read the following declaration regarding in-person meetings. Acting Chairperson Varca stated pursuant to recently adopted amendments to the Illinois Open Meetings Act included in Public Act 101-0640, public bodies may, in certain circumstances, hold entirely virtual public meetings without a quorum physically present in any one location. On March 17, 2020, President Rintz issued a Declaration of Emergency pursuant to the authority granted by the Village Code, the Illinois Municipal Code, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act to address the health threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 29, 2020, Governor Pritzker issued a Disaster Proclamation that declared in-person attendance at public meetings of more than ten people at the regular public meeting location to be infeasible, in accordance the Open Meetings Act, as amended by Public Act. 101-0640. On June 16, 2020, Village President Rintz executed a written determination that given the on-going emergency associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person meetings of the Village's Village Council are not practical or prudent at this time and until further notice.

Call to Order:

Acting Chairperson Varca called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; Voting Members present: Commissioners David Varca, Barry Sylvester, Rosann Park-Jones, and Ted Wynnnychenko. Voting Members absent: Chairperson Chuck Dowding, Commissioners Liz Kunkle, and Chris Foley. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative absent: Jack Coladarci. Student Representative present: Scarlett Harper. Student Representative absent: Marcus Buccellato. Staff Representative present: Brendon Mendoza, Public Works Analyst. Public present: None.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Acting Chairperson Varca called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all Commission members and the public. Staff Representative Mendoza took roll call for attendance.

2) Public Comment: None.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes:

a) Approval of the October 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Acting Chairperson Varca asked the Commission to review the October minutes to get up to speed on the ongoing EFC projects. Acting Chairperson Varca stated he would like to table the October 14, 2020 minutes to the December EFC Meeting if there are no objections. There were no objections.

4) New Business, Old Business/Updates:

a) Pesticides Discussion

Commissioner Wynnnychenko mentioned that he would like to share his recommendations with the whole Commission when present. Commissioner Wynnnychenko shared his recommendations(attached) regarding education, changes to Village code, local government changes, and changes to the Illinois Pesticide Act.

Student Representative Harper stated that there are many ideas, but the Commission should choose a few to focus on, such as discovering if the Park District and School District use pesticides and reaching out to other municipalities to learn if they have addressed this issue.

Acting Chairperson Varca and Commissioner Wynnnychenko agreed that it would be a good idea to share this information with the Commission as a whole and decide the next steps.

Acting Chairperson Varca asked Staff Representative Mendoza to see if he had any contacts at the Park District or School District that would be helpful to find out more about their pesticides uses. Student Representative Harper stated she would contact the Park District and School District.

5) Communications:

a) Approval of December Communication Items

The Commission reviewed the December Communication Items. Acting Chairperson Varca asked for a motion to approve the December Communications Items which was moved by Commissioner Sylvester and seconded by Commissioner Wynnnychenko.

AYES: Varca, Park-Jones, Wynnnychenko, Sylvester

ABSENT: Dowding, Kunkle, Foley

NAYS: None.

b) Discussion of January Communications Items

The Commission reviewed the upcoming January Communication items. The group discussed the LED bulbs article and to update as appropriate.

6) Commission/Staff Reports:

Staff Representative Mendoza provided an update on the 2020 Pumpkin Composting Event that took place on November 4, 2020 at Public Works. Staff Representative Mendoza stated that 673 pumpkins were collected this year, and in comparison to 2019 when 670 pumpkins were collected.

Student Representative Harper asked what happens to the pumpkins that are collected. Staff Representative Mendoza stated that the pumpkins are transferred to a composting facility for composting.

Staff Representative Mendoza mentioned that the form of interest for the GR Corp sustainability position has been completed. Acting Chairperson Varca provided a brief background on the topic as discussed at previous EFC meetings.

7) Open Forum:

Commissioner Wynnychenko mentioned light pollution and stated it is a topic that the Commission may want to consider addressing while addressing gas powered leaf blowers and noise pollution.

Student Representative Harper asked how the Commission prepares communications as she is preparing an article regarding mouse bait. Acting Chairperson Varca explained the process.

8) Adjournment:

There being no further business, Acting Chairperson Varca asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Sylvester and seconded by Commissioner Wynnychenko. The motion passed, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

AYES: Varca, Park-Jones, Wynnychenko, Sylvester

ABSENT: Dowding, Kunkle, Foley

NAYS: None.