

**CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
THURSDAY MARCH 13, 2025 7:00 P.M.
PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM, 1405 SOUTH 7TH AVENUE**

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 2. Roll Call.**
- 3. Minutes – Review and Approval.**
 - A. Motion to accept and place on file minutes of the February 13, 2025, Natural Resources Commission meeting.
- 4. New Business.**
 - A. Meeting Location – Chair. Nagy
 - B. Potential High School Student Members
- 5. Old Business.**
 - A. Arbor Day – All
 - B. Natural / Pollinator Gardens – Comm. Provencher
- 6. Committee Reports**
 - A. Education and Outreach
 - B. Engagement
 - C. Advisory
 - D. Ad-Hoc
 - i. Fox River Dam Task Force Update – Comms. Churchill, Haggas, Mengler.
- 7. Communications.**
 - A. Deferred - Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports for February 2025.
- 8. Public Comment.**
- 9. Additional Items from Commissioners and City Staff.**
- 10. Adjourn.**

Next meeting April 10, 2025.

ADA Compliance

Any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the ADA Coordinator, Jennifer McMahon, at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting. The ADA Coordinator can be reached in-person at 2 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL, via telephone at (630) 377-4446 or 800-526-0844 (TDD), or via e-mail at jmcMahon@stcharlesil.gov. Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation. Notices of this meeting were posted consistent with the requirements of 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq. (Open Meetings Act).

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
FEBRUARY 13, 2025**

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was convened at 7:04 p.m. by Chair. Nagy.

2. Roll Call.

Commissioners Present: Angela Churchill [remote], Tom Galante, Lee Haggas, Jeff Mengler, Suzi Myers, Loren Nagy, Meagan Provencher, Nick Smith.

Absent: Joseph Cannizzaro, Heather Goudreau, Pam Otto; Student Member, Deetya Solanki.

City Staff Present: Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking.

3. Minutes Review and Approval.

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the January 9, 2025 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Haggas, second by Comm. Mengler to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:05 p.m.

4. New Business.

A. Parkway Tree Monitoring

Chair. Nagy reported on a recent conference he had attended. He noted other municipalities have initiated community education programs through which residents are trained to assist in monitoring the health of parkway trees. Chair. Nagy asked the Commissioners to consider if this is something the NRC may be interested in.

Comm. Provencher noted the Chicago Region Trees Initiative offers educational tree walks at no charge.

5. Old Business.

A. Arbor Day / Earth Day Celebration

- i. The proposed combined Arbor Day and Earth Day event was deferred in Comm. Otto's absence.
- ii. The NRC reviewed a summary of past locations of Arbor Day school tree plantings. A copy of the summary is attached to and made a part of these minutes. The NRC selected Anderson Elementary School as the site of the 2025 Arbor Day tree planting, pending the approval of the school's principal. City staff will contact the principal to discuss the tree planting event. Bell Graham Elementary School was proposed as an alternate site.
- iii. Once a planting site is determined, City staff will select the type of tree to be planted.
- iv. Comm. Myers will follow-up with the Chicago Botanic Garden regarding obtaining a seedling of the original Survivor Tree.

B. Naturalized Landscaping

Chair. Nagy reported on new legislation introduced by the Illinois General Assembly: 1) a bill supporting pollinator gardens, and 2) a bill promoting residential natural gardens and landscaping. Comm. Provencher will develop a plant list for natural garden plantings.

C. Ornamental Pear Trees

Chair. Nagy reported there may be grant funds available this fall for the removal and replacement of Pear trees.

6. Committee Reports.

A. Education and Outreach.

i. World Migratory Bird Day

Comm. Myers proposed hosting an “un-lighting of the lights” celebration [contrasting the City’s annual “lighting of the lights” holiday celebration] and a bird walk in support of World Migratory Bird Day on May 10th. The celebration would be a public event with education materials and lights could be turned off various locations in downtown including the Municipal Center and 1st Street Plaza. City staff noted the NRC needs to submit a special event application which requires approval by City Council.

ii. Rain Barrels

Comm. Myers asked if the NRC was interested in hosting another rain barrel sale this year with the Conservation Foundation. Chair. Nagy will contact former Comm. Laura Miller Hill for additional information as she was the coordinator for past rain barrel sales sponsored by the NRC.

B. Engagement.

None.

C. Advisory.

None.

D. Ad-Hoc.

i. Fox River Dam Joint Task Force Update.

Comms. Churchill, Haggas and Mengler reported the selection of a consultant by the Task Force is in progress. No other substantive information was discussed at the February Task Force meeting. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for April 3rd.

7. Communications – Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports.

Motion to approve and place on file the Public Services Division tree activity reports for January 2025. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Galante to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:24 p.m.

8. Public Comment.

None.

9. Additional Items.
A. Commissioners.

City Staff.

City staff reported there may be 2 – 3 high school students interested in joining the NRC. Staff is awaiting emails from the students.

10. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Mengler, second by Comm. Myers to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:29 p.m.

DRAFT