

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING  
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN  
APRIL 11, 2019**

**Members Present:** Chairman Ralph Grathoff, Isabella Bernat, Kathy Brens, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Ryan Johnson, Jillian Leturno, Suzi Myers, Loren Nagy, Caroline Wilfong

**Members Absent:** Jon Duerr, Chloe Fanning, Tom Galante, Claire Norman

**Others Present:** Chris Adesso, AJ Reineking

**Visitors Present:** William Koehl, John Thornhill

**1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting was convened by Chair. Grathoff at 7:01 p.m.

**2. Introduction of Visitors, Comments and Concerns**

William Koehl, Kane County League of Women Voters Environmental Division  
John Thornhill, America in Bloom [AIB].

**3. Minutes Review and Approval**

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the March 14, 2019 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Brens, second by Comm. Nagy to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:07 p.m.

**4. Old Business**

**A. Arbor Day**

Mr. Thornhill confirmed AIB's participation in the Arbor Day celebration. AIB will raffle a Mason bee hive and provide educational materials and volunteer information. Mason bees do not sting and are good pollinators.

The Student Commissioners will make presentations as featured speakers for Arbor Day.

Comm. Myers suggested the annual Stewardship Award be presented to former NRC Comm. Valerie Blaine for her work with the Kane County Big Tree registry, tree identification classes, dark sky education, etc. Motion to present former Comm. Blaine with the 2019 Stewardship Award. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Otto to honor former Comm. Blaine. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:15 p.m.

**B. Storm Drain Markers**

Mr. Reineking reported the storm drain markers have been ordered and should be available to install when weather permits. The markers will be installed in the downtown area from 5th Street on the west to 5th Avenue on the east. Chair. Grathoff inquired as to how many markers could be applied in one day by two to four volunteers. Comm. Goudreau responded approximately five markers per hour could be completed. Volunteers would be asked to watch a very short instruction video on installing the markers, sign a waiver and then receive the supplies. NRC Commissioners can partner with volunteers on this project. Supplies and waivers would be available for pick up from Public Works during regular business hours, and volunteers could also view the video at one of the department's computers. Comm. Goudreau noted all volunteers would be required to report back on where they had installed the storm drain markers so the NRC could keep track of the project. Mr. Adesso suggested providing

maps that could be marked by the volunteers when an installation was completed, and then having the information entered into the City's Geographic Information System [GIS].

**C. Distribute Name Badges**

Name badges were distributed to all Commissioners present.

**5. New Business**

**A. Recycling Event**

Comm. Goudreau proposed the NRC host a one-day recycling event. Items that are not regularly collected during the Kane County recycling events such as scrap metal, keys, batteries, holiday lights, eyeglasses, records and medicine, for example, could be dropped off for recycling by businesses that would be at the event to accept, remove and recycle the items.

Comm. Goudreau inquired if a NRC committee should be formed for the proposed recycling event. Mr. Adesso stated that similarly to the NRC's Education and Languum Woods Committees, another committee could be formed as long as it complied with the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Adesso explained no more than three NRC Commissioners could meet at one time, or the meeting would have to be posted and open to the public [as are the NRC's monthly meetings]. Comms. Goudreau, Johnson and Myers will be the members of the new committee.

Motion to approve the creation of a new NRC Committee [to be named]. Motion by Comm. Nagy, second by Comm. Otto to approve the creation of a new NRC Committee. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:42 p.m.

**B. Sharps Disposal**

Comm. Goudreau reported on the success of a sharps/needles collection held by DuPage County. Benefits from collecting sharps include keeping refuse collectors safe, keeping used needles from being reused improperly and keeping needles out of landfills. Comm. Goudreau, outside of her role with the NRC, is working on having a sharps collection in Kane County and asked if the NRC would be interested in being involved. Comm. Goudreau will obtain additional information and report back to the NRC.

**6. Committee Reports**

**A. Education Committee**

i. Articles for *The Den*

Comm. Myers noted in the past the Tree Commission members wrote articles for *The Den* in the "Tree Corner," and suggested Commissioners could write articles relevant to the NRC's focus. Comm. Myers will write an introductory article for the June 2019 issue; several other Commissioners volunteered to write articles for later months in 2019.

**B. Languum Woods Clean-Up Committee**

i. Wildflower Walk

Comm. Otto reported a wildflower walk in Languum Woods is scheduled for Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. The walk will be promoted in *The Den*, at the Arbor Day celebration and on the NRC's Facebook page.

**7. Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports March 2019**

Motion by Comm. Nagy to approve the Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports and place into the public record, second by Comm. Otto. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:03 p.m.

**8. Additional Items**

**A. Commissioners**

Comm. Otto reported she and Comm. Myers met with members of the Village of Glen Ellyn's Environmental Commission to share ideas.

Comm. Johnson inquired as to the City's watershed plans. Mr. Adesso responded there are both watershed and stormwater plans in place for most areas; the plans are posted on the City's website.

Comm. Myers reported she had attended the Planning and Development Committee meeting on Monday. An announcement was made at the meeting regarding an open house on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 regarding the City's Downtown Plan.

Comm. Nagy reported as part of the Arbor Day celebration in Fayetteville, AR they are promoting the removal of Bradford Pear trees by residents. When a Bradford Pear tree is removed, residents will receive a free native tree to plant as a replacement.

**B. City Staff**

None.

**C. Visitors**

Mr. Koehl provided information regarding a youth-led climate change organization and their director, Xiuhtezcatl Martinez. Mr. Martinez will be speaking at an Earth Month event in Elgin, IL on Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Additionally, on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 there will be a town hall meeting in Aurora, IL regarding the Green New Deal proposal. Mr. Koehl noted the Kane County League of Women Voters is actively promoting action and awareness by local communities and local government to develop sense of urgency on climate change. Mr. Koehl also suggested the City develop sustainability goals.

**D. Adjournment**

Motion by Comm. Nagy to adjourn the meeting, second by Comm. Otto. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:18 p.m.