

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN
AUGUST 9, 2018**

Members Present: Chairman Ralph Grathoff, Jon Duerr, Heather Goudreau, Loren Nagy, Ray Hauser, Pam Otto

Members Absent: Valerie Blaine, Kathy Brens, Lee Haggas, Caroline Wilfong

Others Present: Chris Adesso, Marcelline D'Argento

Visitors Present: None

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Chair. Grathoff at 7:03 p.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the July, 12 2018 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Duerr, second by Comm. Goudreau to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:04 p.m.

3. Old Business

A. Urban Forestry Management Plan

The Urban Forestry Management Plan [UFMP or the Plan] will be reviewed by the NRC and discussed at the September NRC meeting. Chair. Grathoff noted updates to the Plan will be made if necessary, rather than trying to pass an ordinance to affect change. Chair Grathoff inquired as to the process to amend the Plan. Mr. Adesso stated if there are substantive changes made to the Plan by the NRC, the amendments will likely have to be approved by City Council, but he will confirm this is correct.

Comm. Nagy inquired as to the audience for the UFMP [i.e. if the document is intended to be used by both the City and residents]. Comm. Nagy noted the acceptable species list appears to address only parkway trees, not trees appropriate for private planting such as Spruce. Mr. Adesso explained the Plan is intended for use by the City's Public Works Department. Comm. Duerr noted the UFMP is an educational document that provides recommendations for residents. Chair. Grathoff noted the general principles of the UFMP are applicable to both Public Works and residents, including pruning and planting techniques, and having the right tree for the right place. Chair. Grathoff suggested including City tree inventory data from Graf Tree Care to the UFMP. Comm. Nagy suggested including a link to species information on the Morton Arboretum website, which is updated continually. Mr. Adesso stated the NRC could further develop the Plan and possibly add a section/chapter for residents. Comm. Duerr suggested keeping City Council aware and involved with updates to the UFMP and the NRC's activities.

Commissioners will bring their comments/suggestions/updates to the UFMP to the September NRC meeting.

4. New Business

A. Pumpkin Composting/Recycling

Comm. Goudreau informed the NRC of a pumpkin collection event initiated by SCARCE [School & Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education] the Saturday

after Halloween that offers a way to keep pumpkins out of landfills. Illinois is the country's number one grower of pumpkins. In 2017 thirty-one different sites/communities participated in pumpkin collections, and to date, ninety-three tons of pumpkins have been collected and kept out of landfills. The Kane County Recycling Office coordinated a pumpkin collection in 2017 that was held at Pushing the Envelope Farm near the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva; approximately five gaylords of pumpkins were collected. The one-day collection events are generally held from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Comm. Otto noted the Park District previously held a pumpkin bowling event at Pottawatomie Park, then composted the pumpkins at the Park District's Bolcum Road location.

Comm. Goudreau explained hosting a pumpkin recycling event generally involves obtaining City approval, coordinating with the Kane County Recycling Office and getting a hauler, such as Lakeshore Recycling Systems to take to take the pumpkins to compost. Mr. Adesso explained the City no longer composts leaves or mulch. Comm. Otto noted the Park District's community garden plots are closed as of October 31st. Mr. Adesso stated the NRC could seek City Council approval to use City facilities for a pumpkin collection event, possibly at Public Works. Comm. Goudreau explained there is a toolkit for pumpkin recycling that includes small cards to hand out during trick-or-treating, among other resources.

Mr. Adesso will obtain information from the City's refuse/recycling service provider, Lakeshore Recycling Systems and follow up with the NRC. Comm. Goudreau offered to coordinate volunteers for the event. Mr. Adesso will seek approval from the City's Government Services Committee and City Council. Chair. Grathoff requested a motion by the NRC to approve pumpkin composting and recycling as proposed by Comm. Goudreau. Motion by Comm. Nagy, second by Comm. Otto to approve the pumpkin composting/recycling event. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:55 p.m.

B. Storm Drain Stenciling

Comm. Otto reported SCARCE received a grant to apply medallions to storm drains in DuPage County that state "No Dumping - Drains to River." Comm. Otto explained the America in Bloom judges suggested having storm drain medallions during their visit to the City. Comm. Duerr stated the City does, in fact, have medallions on some of its storm drains; and Comm. Otto confirmed she was aware of this. Mr. Adesso noted as of the late 1990s "No Dumping" was cast into the storm drains installed in the City. Comm. Otto noted she was aware that some of the storm drains do have stenciling. The stencils can be easily applied to storm drains, and Comm. Goudreau explained in DuPage County volunteer groups installed storm drain stencils; this may be a project of interest to an Eagle Scout group.

Mr. Adesso commented the River Corridor Foundation of St. Charles may be a resource for the NRC, and storm drain stencils may be close to the mission of the Foundation. Mr. Adesso explained a plan for storm drain stencils could be developed by the NRC and presented to City Council; he will report back to the NRC on the number of storm drains in the City. The City's GIS Department can track which drains have been stenciled should the NRC decide to pursue this initiative. Perhaps the NRC could set a one-year goal and/or partner with the River Corridor Foundation targeting the storm drains closest to the Fox River.

Mr. Adesso noted the manufacturer Berntsen makes medallions for storm drains. Comm. Goudreau will also obtain the source and cost of the medallions used in DuPage County; she will bring a sample medallion to the next NRC meeting. Mr. Adesso suggested the NRC may first want to address: what the stencils will look like, how big they will be, the locations of placement, etc.

Chair. Grathoff summarized the NRC can review the sample stencil and then decide if it will pursue a grant and consider making the project part of the NRC's mission.

C. America in Bloom Summary

Comm. Otto informed the Commissioners that AIB's visit to St. Charles went well, and the City met many of the criteria in the categories judged. The AIB judges' results will be publicized at the end of September at AIB's symposium in Lexington, Kentucky.

5. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

In Comm. Myers absence, Ms. D'Argento reported the books for donation have been labeled with the NRC logo and letters to the schools prepared. Comm. Myers plans to distribute the books so the schools will have them before the 9-11 Patriot Day commemoration.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

Comm. Otto reported the St. Charles Breakfast Rotary Club and the St. Charles History Museum may have volunteers to participate in Langum Woods clean-up.

6. Communications – Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports July 2018

Deferred.

7. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Comm. Duerr asked if any City trees have been negatively affected by the dry weather conditions. Mr. Adesso will obtain information from the City's Arborist and report back to the NRC.

Comm. Goudreau provided an update on the status of the NRC's Facebook page. There are some City guidelines and policies to follow, and this initiative is on hold pending further information from the City's Communications Division.

B. City Staff

None.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Comm. Duerr to adjourn the meeting, second by Comm. Hauser. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:17 p.m.