

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN
JULY 12, 2018**

Members Present: Chairman Ralph Grathoff, Kathy Brens, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Ray Hauser, Suzi Myers

Members Absent: Valerie Blaine, Jon Duerr, Loren Nagy, Pam Otto, Caroline Wilfong

Others Present: Chris Adesso, Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking

Visitors Present: None

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Chair. Grathoff at 7:06 p.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the June 14, 2018 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Brens, second by Comm. Haggas to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:07 p.m.

3. Old Business

A. Social Media

Mr. Reineking reported he had spoken to the City's Communications Division Manager regarding social media and City-affiliated groups, such as the NRC. A City-affiliated group can create their own social media accounts and the City will start to follow them and share the information. Alternatively a City-affiliated group can write articles for The Den or the City blog. Mr. Adesso suggested the NRC review the City's website to see what platforms are in use [the City's website indicates the following platforms are utilized: Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Vimeo, Flickr and Instagram]. Comm. Goudreau stated she would be willing to serve the primary administrator for a Facebook page if the NRC chooses to create one; multiple members of the NRC would have access to post information and photos.

Comm. Grathoff inquired as to whether the content of the NRC's Facebook page would require approval by the City. Mr. Adesso explained the NRC's Facebook page would be independent, not a City sanctioned page. However, Mr. Adesso noted the Commissioners are bound by the Ethics Ordinance [which is included in the Boards and Commissions Manual]. Any member of the NRC could provide photos, written entries, etc. to be posted. Comm. Myers noted a Langum Woods volunteer workday could be announced on the NRC's Facebook page, for example.

B. Tree Preservation Ordinance

As a follow up from the June NRC meeting Mr. Reineking stated the City's Tree Preservation Ordinance [City Code Chapter 8.30] of does not provide for situations such as poor pruning practices of private trees [i.e. the trees trimmed on East Main Street adjacent to a hotel]. Once a property is developed, the City is no longer involved in tree protection. The current ordinance states that a tree preservation plan is required from property developers, and any tree over six inches in diameter must be protected during development of a property; that is the extent of the City's jurisdiction regarding private trees. Chair. Grathoff stated the NRC's recommendations can be addressed through the Urban Forestry Management Plan [UFMP]. Comms. Myers and Hauser requested confirmation that the City does not want residents to

trim City parkway trees adjacent to their homes; Mr. Reineking confirmed this is correct. If a resident wants a parkway tree trimmed, they should contact the City and make a request. Comm. Goudreau stated this information would be helpful to have on the NRC's Facebook page.

C. Urban Forestry Management Plan

In connection with the discussion regarding the City's tree preservation ordinance, Mr. Reineking noted periodic review of the UFMP is one of the NRC's goals. Chair. Grathoff suggested the NRC schedule a date for the review of the UFMP. Mr. Reineking suggested a NRC UFMP sub-committee could be convened to review and update the document. Chair. Grathoff requested review of the UFMP be placed on the agenda for the September NRC meeting.

D. Camp Kane

Comm. Brens commented on the presentation by the Camp Kane Heritage Foundation representative at the June NRC meeting. Comm. Brens inquired if it was within the NRC's scope to be involved with the photos and content presented by the foundation at the site in Langum Park. Mr. Adesso stated this is generally not an issue for the NRC, but the foundation representative could be contacted by anyone independently of the NRC.

4. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

Comm. Myers will pick up the *The Survivor Tree* books and donation letters from Public Works in late August for distribution to the elementary and middle schools in St. Charles.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

None.

5. Communications – Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports June 2018

Motion by Comm. Myers to approve the above-referenced reports and place into the public record, second by Comm. Brens. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:39 p.m.

6. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Comm. Haggas inquired as to the possible involvement of the NRC with the construction of the City's new Police Station. Mr. Adesso explained the landscape plan has not yet been developed, but a concept plan was required for zoning ordinance purposes. The placement of trees along the southern property line is under discussion between the City and the project architect; specifically the location of where trees will be planted on the southern property line to accommodate overhead utilities and City Code requirements. Jeremy Craft will have an opportunity to review the landscape plan. Mr. Adesso stated the basins at the site are all naturalized, which is of importance to the NRC. Additionally, three bioswales are incorporated in the plan, and stormwater management in the area will be improved as part of the project. Comm. Myers asked if the new Police Station will be a LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] certified building. Mr. Adesso explained, while the City will not pursue LEED certification, the building will meet LEED standards.

Chair. Grathoff thanked Comm. Goudreau for taking the lead on the NRC's social media presence.

B. City Staff
None.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Comm. Myers to adjourn the meeting, second by Comm. Goudreau. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:50 p.m.