

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN
OCTOBER 8, 2020**

Members Present: Angela Churchill, Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Ralph Grathoff, Lee Haggas, Pam Otto, Bryan Wirball. Present via WebEx: Ryan Johnson, Suzi Myers, Loren Nagy

Members Absent: Kathy Brens

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

Visitors Present: Elli Chivari, Katie Friedman, Julia Johnson

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 September 10, 2020 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Wirball, second by Comm. Galante to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:08 p.m.

3. Old Business

A. Greenest Region Compact II

As discussed during the September NRC meeting, a member of the Greenest Region Corps [GRCorps] was invited to speak to the Commissioners. Katie Friedman, GRCorps Advisor with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, introduced herself to all present. Ms. Friedman explained the process of becoming a GRCorps community and described some of the projects members of the GRCorps have completed for other municipalities, such as developing sustainability plans. Ms. Friedman noted November 20, 2020 is the deadline to express interest in hosting a member of the GRCorps.

Comms. Myers and Otto reiterated the need for the Commission to move forward and select a project for the NRC to work on from the GRC Framework. Comm. Myers requested that each of the Commissioners select an item of interest from the GRC Framework and forward their selection to city staff as soon as possible for discussion at the November NRC meeting.

Mr. Adesso provided clarification regarding the “X” marks on the GRC Framework document. The X’s represent an audit of the document completed by city staff to reflect those items the city has completed, or are in progress, or not of interest, or that the city is unable to complete due to contractual obligations, for example. Comm. Goudreau requested confirmation that the NRC could work on those items in the Framework without X marks; Mr. Adesso responded affirmatively, and explained items with no X mark represent items where there was no information available or that had not been previously considered by the city. Mr. Adesso recalled the City Council passed a resolution in October 2019 to participate in the GRC.

Comm. Otto noted the St. Charles Park District completed some of the items on the Land section of the GRC Framework. Additionally, Comm. Otto stated approximately 2 years ago Mayor Rogina signed the National Wildlife Foundation Mayor's Monarch Pledge* with St. Charles Girl Scout Troop 879 and the St. Charles Park District. City staff confirmed relevant Park District accomplishments should be included with the city's responses in the GRC Framework, such as the monarch pledge.

*[[https://www.nwf.org/MayorsMonarch Pledge/Signatories](https://www.nwf.org/MayorsMonarchPledge/Signatories)].

4. **New Business**

A. Textile Recycling

Comms. Myers and Nagy reported some residents recently expressed interest in curbside textile recycling. There are other municipalities in the Chicago area offering curbside textile recycling for items that are not usable or donatable to charities, and textile recycling diverts such items from landfills.

Mr. Reineking explained the city previously looked into textile recycling. This is not a service provided by Lakeshore Recycling Services [LRS], the city's current refuse and recycling services provider. LRS is a for-profit organization and would sell the textiles it collected. The city determined not to pursue textile recycling as there are already four non-profit organizations in the city that collect textiles to support their charity work [Lazarus House, United Way, Baker Memorial and the Salvation Army], and the city did not want to detract from local non-profits' work by introducing a for-profit option.

Comm. Goudreau noted that Goodwill has a textile recycling program and textiles can also be dropped off at the Kane County electronics collection sites and weekend recycling events.

The Commission determined its best course of action will be to actively promote the resources already available for textile recycling through *The Den* and the NRC's Facebook page.

B. Potential New Student Commissioners

Elli Chivari introduced herself to all present and expressed her interest in joining the NRC as Student Commissioner. Ms. Chivari is a senior at St. Charles East High School and has been the president of the Eco-Minded Club for the past three years.

Julia Johnson introduced herself to all present and expressed her interest in joining the NRC as a Student Commissioner. Ms. Johnson is a junior at St. Charles East High School and a member of the Eco-Minded Club.

Additionally, an email from Camille Chieco was submitted to city staff regarding her interest in joining the NRC as a Student Commissioner. Ms. Chieco is a senior at St. Charles East High School and a member of the Eco-Minded Club; she was unable to attend the October meeting.

Chair. Grathoff invited Ms. Chivari and Ms. Johnson to attend a second NRC meeting [in November] to be formally accepted as Student Commissioners if they are interested.

5. **Committee Reports**

A. Education Committee

None.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

None.

C. New Committee

The NRC-sponsored pumpkin collection is scheduled for 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at Public Works.

D. Single-Use Bag Committee

Comm. Nagy reported he will be in contact with the St. Charles Business Alliance and his alderman, and is awaiting a response from city staff in the Community and Economic Development Department.

6. Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports

Motion to approve and place into the public record the Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports for the month September 2020. Motion by Comm. Galante, second by Comm. Haggas to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:43 p.m.

Chair. Grathoff noted the city planted 120 trees in May 2020 and inquired as to the number of trees to be planted this fall. Mr. Reineking reported 76 parkway trees will be planted by the city starting next week.

7. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Comms. Goudreau, Haggas, Otto and Wirball commented on the success of the recent Fox River clean-up. The NRC thanked Comm. Otto for coordinating the event. Participating volunteers included members of the Kiwanis Club, River Corridor Foundation and Rotary Club. The volunteers collected over 20 pounds of glass from the river and shoreline, and a 1951 license plate was also removed from the river, among many other items.

Chair. Grathoff reiterated the Mayor's message regarding health and safety, and the importance of wearing masks, hand washing, etc.

B. City Staff

None.

C. Visitors

Ms. Chivari suggested increasing awareness of the NRC's activities, and utilizing social media such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. She stated more high school students would be interested in the NRC's activities if they were informed. Comm. Goudreau explained the NRC has a Facebook page, but perhaps additional social media could be used as well.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Otto, second by Comm. Goudreau to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:51 p.m.