

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING  
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2019**

**Members Present:** Chairman Ralph Grathoff, Kathy Brens, Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Jillian Leturno, Loren Nagy, Claire Norman, Pam Otto, Caroline Wilfong

**Members Absent:** Jon Duerr, Chloe Fanning, Ryan Johnson, Suzi Myers

**Others Present:** AJ Reineking

**Visitors Present:** William Koehl

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

The meeting was convened by Chair. Grathoff at 6:59 p.m.

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

William Koehl re-introduced himself as a representative of the environmental team of the Central Kane County League of Women Voters [LWV]. Mr. Koehl attended two prior Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meetings. Mr. Koehl shared information regarding a Clean Energy Townhall at the St. Charles Public Library on September 23, 2019. Mr. Koehl also inquired as to the Student Commissioners participation in the upcoming Global Climate Strike on Friday, September 20, 2019. The Student Commissioners were aware of the climate strike, but noted the event coincides with the school's homecoming activities, however, they will see if any students are interested in participating. Additionally, Mr. Koehl confirmed the Greenest Region Compact II [GRC] resolution was going to the city's Government Services Committee [GSC]; Commissioners and staff responded affirmatively.

**3. Minutes Review and Approval**

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the August 8, 2019 NRC meeting. Motion by Comm. Nagy second by Comm. Galante to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:01 p.m.

**4. Old Business**

**A. Storm Drain Markers**

The initial supply of sixty storm drain markers were installed by the NRC, and a new supply was ordered by Public Works staff. Comm. Nagy noticed some newly installed storm drains on Illinois Street do not have "drains to river" cast into the metal. Mr. Reineking will check with Public Works Engineering staff as to why the new storm drains do not have this casting, and will report back at the October NRC meeting. The Commissioners will meet to continue the installation of storm drain markers on Thursday, September 19, 2019.

**B. Greenest Region Compact II**

Mr. Reineking informed the NRC the GRC resolution will be on the omnibus agenda for the city's GSC meeting on Monday, September 23, 2019. There will be no formal presentation regarding the resolution, but members of the NRC are welcome to attend the meeting.

**5. New Business**

**A. River Corridor Foundation Partnership**

Comm. Goudreau reported the River Corridor Foundation, Conservation Foundation and Friends of the Fox River are teaming up for a river clean-up event on September 21, 2019 if

anyone would like to participate. Volunteers can walk along the river shoreline or clean-up from the water if they have a canoe or kayak.

**B. Commissioner Vacancy**

Chair. Grathoff announced Comm. Duerr's resignation from the NRC. Prospective NRC members for this vacancy should submit a letter of interest to Mayor Rogina.

**C. Student Commissioner Vacancies**

Chair. Grathoff announced there are two openings for student members of the NRC [Student Comms. Bernat and Fanning left for college out of state]. High school students from St. Charles East and North High Schools or other high school and/or college students residing in St. Charles are welcome to submit a letter of interest to the NRC.

**6. Committee Reports**

**A. Education Committee**

In Comm. Myers absence, Mr. Reineking requested the Commissioners' participation in writing articles for *The Den* newsletter. The newsletter production schedule and article guidelines were redistributed to the NRC.

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

Comm. Otto reported on a Park District stewardship program.

**C. New Committee**

Comm. Goudreau reported she is working on a flyer for the pumpkin collection event on Saturday November 2, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

Motion to approve and place into the public record the Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports for the month of August 2019. Motion by Comm. Brens, second by Comm. Nagy. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:25 p.m.

**8. Additional Items**

**A. Commissioners**

Comm. Galante commented he had informed the city about some Maple trees in his neighborhood that are showing signs of the leaf blight that was previously discussed by the NRC. This information was forwarded to the Arborist and Public Services Division Manager.

Comm. Nagy informed the NRC about the upcoming Impact Conference in October at the Chicago Botanic Garden. The event will include sessions on sustainable and ecological landscape practices, and is open to the public.

Student Comm. Leturno offered to have volunteers from the high school Eco Club participate in the NRC's pumpkin collection and in Langum Park clean-ups. Comm. Otto requested that Student Comms. Leturno and Norman coordinate a group of Eco Club volunteers for clean-up Saturday(s) between January 1 and February 28, 2020 in Langum Woods.

Comm. Brens stated prior to her retirement from teaching, recycling containers were placed in every high school classroom, but there was a concern that both garbage and recycling were mixed together. Comm. Brens estimated a combined population of over 9,000 students and

staff at St. Charles East and North High Schools generate large amounts of materials that could be recycled. Student Comm. Leturno responded that North High School started a recycling committee this school year for the reasons described by Comm. Brens. The students proposed having separate containers for plastic, paper and trash, and creating a video explaining what can and can't be recycled. The school principal is supportive of the proposal. Comm. Leturno explained the students have also formed a cup committee to help eliminate the use of plastic bottles of water, soda and plastics in general. If North High School implements these proposals, changes could be adopted by all schools in District 303. Comm. Brens noted that water fountains for refillable bottles were installed at Thompson Middle School during the renovation. Comm. Goudreau offered the high school students her assistance with their recycling and plastic reduction initiatives. Student Comm. Norman noted the importance of making students aware of the reasons why plastics should be reduced. Chair. Grathoff commended the Student Commissioners for their actions to improve the environment.

**B. City Staff**

Mr. Reineking noted he was recently in the Seattle, Washington area, and the University of Washington has storm drain markers throughout the campus that are identical to the markers the NRC has been installing.

**C. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Nagy, second by Comm. Otto. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:47 p.m.