

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
JANUARY 13, 2022**

Members Present: Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Morrighan Hayes, Suzi Myers, Callie Ramirez, Deetya Solanki.

Present Via WebEx: Angela Churchill, Lee Haggas, Laura Miller Hill.

Members Absent: Kathy Brens, Ryan Johnson, Pam Otto, Michael Stroud.

Visitors Present: Rich Anderson, John Rabchuk.

Others Present: Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking.

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Introduction of Visitors, Comments and Concerns

Mr. Anderson and Mr. Rabchuk were in attendance as members of the River Corridor Foundation [RCF], and introduced themselves to all present.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the November 11, 2021, Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Goudreau to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:04 p.m.

4. Old Business

A. Arbor Day

Ms. D'Argento reported Pottawatomie Park is reserved with the St. Charles Park District for both Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30, 2022 for the Arbor Day celebration pending the NRC's decision on the date of the event. The Commissioners discussed the proposed dates, and decided to have the Arbor Day celebration on Saturday, April 30, 2022 in combination with a clean-up project. The clean-up will be scheduled from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, and the Arbor Day event will begin afterwards at 11:30 am. Student Comms. Hayes, Ramirez and Solanki discussed promoting the clean-up event as a service project for high school students in connection with Arbor Day. Additionally, the NRC discussed involving the community in the clean-up event and celebration, recognizing the clean-up participants during the Arbor Day celebration, and having a vendor-donated gift card raffle. City staff will obtain the permit from the Park District for April 30th. Additional details will be discussed at upcoming NRC meetings.

B. Joint Meeting

Deferred.

C. Additional

Student Comm. Ramirez reported she had previously contacted one of the drivers' education teachers at St. Charles East High School regarding "no idling" signage. However, she did not receive a response. The Commissioners thanked Comm. Ramirez for her efforts.

5. New Business

None.

6. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

Comm. Myers summarized upcoming NRC articles for The Den.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

None.

C. Community Sustainability Committee

Comm. Goudreau reported on the success of the holiday lights recycling program, and thanked all those involved for coordinating the program and collecting lights, especially Comm. Brens.

D. Single-Use Bag Committee

Chair. Nagy reported he and Comm. Churchill recently met with Batavia aldermen and members of the Batavia Environmental Commission to discuss progress on the issue of single-use bags. The group will meet again the week of January 17th to plan for presentations to the Batavia and St. Charles City Councils.

E. Greenest Region Compact Committee

None.

F. Urban Forestry Management Plan

None.

7. Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports

Motion to approve and place into the public record the Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports for the months of November and December 2021. Motion by Comm. Galante, second by Comm. Myers to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:28 p.m.

8. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Comm. Goudreau reiterated her thanks to the NRC and city staff for the successful holiday lights recycling program. Comm. Goudreau also recognized work by St. Charles Electric Division crews to quickly restore power after a recent outage.

B. Visitors

Mr. Rabchuk and Mr. Anderson discussed a RCF project with the St. Charles Park District and the City on the east bank of the Fox River north of the entrance to Public Works. The project includes planting five new trees, installing five new benches, a bicycle repair station, and a limestone step down and launch area for fishing, kayak and canoe access to the river. Future improves may include a rain garden and the installation of public art.

C. City Staff

None.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Goudreau, second by Comm. Galante to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:35 p.m.