

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
FEBRUARY 8, 2024**

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Chair. Nagy at 7:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Joey Cannizzaro, Angela Churchill, Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Jeff Mengler, Laura Miller Hill, Loren Nagy, Meagan Provencher.

Absent: Suzi Myers, Pam Otto; Student Member, Deetya Solanki.

City Staff Present: Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking.

3. Minutes Review and Approval.

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the November 9, 2023 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Churchill, second by Comm. Haggas to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:04 p.m.

4. New Commissioner.

Chair. Nagy welcomed Joey Cannizzaro to the NRC. Introductions were made by all present. Comm. Cannizzaro replaced Comm. Ryan Johnson.

5. Arbor Day.

Arbor Day 2024 will be celebrated on Friday, April 26th. One of the St. Charles schools will be selected for the annual tree planting ceremony, and a recipient for the Stewardship Award will be nominated by the NRC. An initial suggestion was made by Comm. Provencher to nominate Allison Thomas, an elementary school teacher at Davis Richmond School, for the award. Comm. Provencher noted Ms. Thomas includes education about trees and the environment as part of her curriculum. The tree planting ceremony could also be held at Davis Richmond School. The location and award recipient will be decided at an upcoming NRC meeting.

6. Fox River Dam Discussion.

Chair. Nagy reported a Fox River Dam Task Force was created by City Council to evaluate the impact of removing the dam. A copy of Resolution No. 2024-5 is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mayor Vitek has requested two members from the NRC attend Task Force meetings for the purpose of sharing information between the NRC and Task Force, and serving in an advisory role and as a resource for the Task Force. Comms. Churchill, Haggas and Mengler volunteered to attend the Task Force meetings on behalf of the NRC.

7. Committee Reports.

A. Education and Outreach.

City staff reported on behalf of Comm. Myers: the Bird City application was completed and submitted to the Bird City Network in late January. The application is currently under review.

City staff reported crews having been working to clear Langum Woods of invasive species. Progress of the work was reviewed and approved by Comm. Otto. Stumps are being treated by city crews as part of the clearing process.

B. Engagement.

Comm. Goudreau thanked Comms. Myers, Otto and Provencher for volunteering to collect holiday lights for recycling. City staff reported four over-full gaylords of lights were collected.

C. Advisory.

None.

D. Ad-Hoc.

None.

8. Communications – Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports

Motion to approve and place on file the Public Services Division tree activity reports for November and December 2023, and January 2024. Motion by Comm., Haggas, second by Comm. Galante to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:38 p.m.

9. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Comm. Mengler noted the 12th annual Fox River Summit will be held in Wisconsin on March 14th. City staff will forward information on the summit to the NRC and Mayor Vitek on behalf of Comm. Mengler.

B. City Staff

None.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Churchill, second by Comm. Cannizzaro to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:42 p.m.

**City of St. Charles, Illinois
Resolution No. 2024-5**

**A Resolution Creating a Task Force Regarding the Impact of the St.
Charles Dam**

**Presented & Passed by the
City Council on February 20, 2024**

WHEREAS, the Fox River is a feature and utilized amenity in the City of St. Charles ("City") for a variety of purposes; and

WHEREAS, in September 2023, the United States Army Corp of Engineers ("Army Corps") released a draft study regarding removal of nine dams along the Fox River, including the St. Charles Dam ("Dam"); and

WHEREAS, the Dam is currently owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources ("IDNR"); and

WHEREAS, if the Army Corps final plan recommends removal of the Dam, IDNR will request concurrence from the City before commencing removal; and

WHEREAS, before the City makes a determination regarding removal of the Dam, the City must assess multiple factors, including gathering public input; and

WHEREAS, the City believes the creation of a task force to solicit public input and analyze all the relevant information is the most prudent approach.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Charles, Kane and DuPage Counties, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1: TASK FORCE. A Fox River Dam Task Force is hereby created.

SECTION 2: MEMBERSHIP. The Task Force shall have nine (9) total members, all of which are residents of the City of St. Charles, with the Chair to be determined by the membership, allocated as follows:

- City of St. Charles: Five (5), including three (3) elected officials, to be appointed by the Mayor with consent of the City Council
- St. Charles Park District: Three (3), including at least one (1) but not more than two (2) elected officials, to be appointed by the President
- River Corridor Foundation: One (1)

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVE. The Task Force shall assess and provide a written analysis of the impact of dam removal to the City and Park District on the following categories:

1. Environmental
2. Economic Development (including the impact on both commercial and residential property owners)
3. Recreational (including the impact on both commercial and residential property owners)
4. Any other categories deemed necessary by the Task Force

SECTION 4: PUBLIC INPUT. The Task Force shall engage the public and solicit input, through, at minimum, a website to engage public feedback, and in-person forums.

SECTION 5: FINDINGS. The Task Force shall report back to Park District Board and City Council at least quarterly.

SECTION 6: COST SHARING. Expenditures shall be split by the City Council and Park District for any necessary consultants to evaluate technical aspects and produce summaries. Costs shall be approved by each board in advance of any expenditures according to their respective purchasing policies.

SECTION 7: TIMELINE. The Task Force shall endeavor to complete all evaluations and make final reports to the City Council and Park District no later than March 1, 2025 unless otherwise extended by the City Council and Park District.

PRESENTED to the City Council of the City of St. Charles, Illinois, this 20th day of February, 2024.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of St. Charles, Illinois, this 20th day of February, 2024.

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of St. Charles, Illinois, this 20th day of February, 2024.

Lora Vitek, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

COUNCIL VOTE:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain: