

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
JUNE 9, 2022**

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Laura Miller Hill, Ryan Johnson, Suzi Myers, Chair. Loren Nagy, Pam Otto, Michael Stroud; Student Comms. Morrighan Hayes, Callie Ramirez, Deetya Solanki.

Absent: Kathleen Brens, Angela Churchill, Student Comm. Daniella Taylor.

City Staff Present: Marcelline D'Argento, Victor Pierce.

Visitors Present: None.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the May 12, 2022 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Otto, second by Comm. Miller Hill to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:08 p.m.

4. Old Business

A. Joint Meeting

Comm. Myers proposed having the NRC host the next joint meeting with the Batavia Environmental Commission and Geneva Natural Resources Committee. A joint meeting has not been held for several years. Suggested dates for the joint meeting were in August or October on the NRC's regular meeting date on the second Thursday of the month. Comm. Myers proposed having a presentation by city staff onsite at the recently completed 7th Avenue Creek Project. The joint meeting could start at a 5:00 pm for the onsite presentation, followed by refreshments possibly at a meeting room at the St. Charles Public Library which is in close proximity. City staff will email the Batavia and Geneva contacts to begin coordinating the joint meeting.

5. New Business

None.

6. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

Comm. Myers proposed having the NRC donate a book to each of the elementary schools in St. Charles as the Commission has done in the past. Comm. Myers suggested the books *Lights Out* by Marsha Arnold or *What if Night?* by Paul Bogard. Both books address the topic of the importance of dark skies. City staff will coordinate the purchase of the books for distribution by the NRC for the 2022/2023 school year.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

Comm. Otto reported former Comm. Jon Duerr is continuing his plant survey.

C. Community Sustainability Committee

None.

D. Single-Use Bag Committee

The Committee plans to make a presentation to the city's Government Operations Committee in the near future. Chair. Nagy presented a draft of the presentation to the NRC. Key points included:

- Human health hazards associated with single-use plastic bags
- The majority of single-use plastic bags to into landfills
- The results of the resident survey
- Support for reducing distribution of single-use plastic straws and tableware [no fees associated with these items are proposed]
- Fee retention

Comments from the Commissioners were positive. The following comments were also made:

- Comm. Stroud will request support for the single-use plastic bag ordinance when he attends an upcoming meeting with the St. Charles Business Alliance
- Comm. Goudreau noted Aldi grocery stores have been successful for years using a fee-based model for plastic and paper bags which are sold at their stores and purchased by customers as needed
- Comm. Miller Hill suggested distributing reusable bags to St. Charles residents when the ordinance is passed

E. Greenest Region Compact Committee

Comms. Goudreau and Miller Hill are continuing to work on the Water section of the Greenest Region Compact. A public education meeting may be held at the St. Charles Public Library with the Conservation Foundation to promote cisterns, rain gardens, rain barrels and green infrastructure. The Committee also proposed a rain barrel sale for residents. Comm. Miller Hill noted the city's Bicycle Friendly Community application remains in progress.

F. Urban Forestry Management Plan Review Committee

Chair. Nagy requested a copy of the most current version of the city's UFMP. City staff will send the document to Chair. Nagy via email.

7. Communications – 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 of May 2022. Motion by Comm. Stroud, second by Comm. Goudreau to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:55 p.m.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Chair. Nagy commented on an article entitled *No Mow May* which was distributed to the NRC. Generally, not mowing grass for one month is not practical, given that most residential lawnmowers would not be able to mow long grass. Comm. Otto noted in the past when the St. Charles Park District did not mow areas of grass for a number of weeks, animals were living in the long grass, and were harmed when it was mowed. Comm. Johnson questioned the purpose of not mowing grass; Comm. Miller Hill explained it is to support pollinators. Comm. Otto suggested promoting alternatives such as growing flowers and clover to support pollinators, rather than not mowing grass.

Student Comm. Ramirez suggested having the children at the Pottawatomie Park summer day camps participate in the next Fox River clean-up event. Comm. Otto will send Park District summer camp contact information to Comm. Ramirez.

B. City Staff

None.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Otto, second by Comm. Galante to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:10 p.m.