

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

Members Present: Kathy Brens, Angela Churchill, Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Ryan Johnson, Laura Miller Hill, Suzi Myers, Loren Nagy, Pam Otto, Callie Ramirez.

Members Absent: Michael Stroud, Daniella Taylor.

Others Present: Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking.

Visitors Present: None.

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

Comm. Brens inquired as to whether the city of St. Charles has or will have a vaccine mandate for its employees, and board and commission members. Mr. Reineking stated there is no city vaccine mandate at this time.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the August 12, 2021, Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Brens, second by Comm. Miller Hill to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:03 p.m.

4. Old Business

A. Open Meetings Act

Mr. Reineking reported on the NRC's August 2021 inquiry regarding Student Commissioners being counted toward the number of persons who can meet while maintaining compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act [OMA]. Mr. Reineking discussed this issue with the city administrator's office, and informed the NRC that Student Commissioners may participate in any NRC sub-committee meetings as they are not counted toward a quorum of members.

5. New Business

A. Naperville Sustainability Report

Comm. Otto reported on information she had received from William Koehl, a representative of the League of Women Voters of Illinois Environmental Team who has attended NRC meetings previously. Mr. Koehl brought to the NRC's attention the topic of Illinois Municipal Electric Agency [IMEA] membership review by the city of Naperville. Comm. Otto will invite Mr. Koehl to an upcoming NRC meeting to further discuss this topic.

6. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

None.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

Comm. Otto reported the Salvation Army Community Center on South 7th Avenue has a new after school program for children from kindergarten through 5th grade. The program director is interested in having the children develop connections to the community and visiting

Langum Woods due to its close proximity to the Salvation Army location. Activities at Langum Woods may include keeping nature journals, sledding and perhaps introducing the children to age appropriate restoration activities. Mr. Reineking stated restoration and related volunteer type activities in Langum Woods would require signed waivers with the city.

C. Community Sustainability Committee

Comm. Goudreau requested high school student volunteers for the upcoming pumpkin recycling event.

Comm. Goudreau confirmed the NRC-sponsored event regarding Dark Skies is set for next Thursday, September 16th at Clarke Environmental Services.

D. Single-Use Bag Committee

None.

E. Greenest Region Compact Committee

Comms. Myers and Goudreau decided to work on the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge together.

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 month of August 2021. Motion by Comm. Otto, second by Comm. Galante to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:25 p.m.

8. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Comm. Myers inquired as to when the next joint meeting with the NRC, the Batavia Tree Commission and Geneva Natural Resources Committee might be scheduled. The joint meetings are generally held during the month of October, but no meetings were scheduled for the past few years. Ms. D'Argento will review past communications with Batavia and Geneva regarding the joint meetings. Mr. Reineking stated a large meeting room would be necessary for joint meeting due to current public health and social distancing considerations.

Comm. Churchill reported she has noticed volcano mulching appears to be a frequent cause of many parkway trees dying, and inquired as to whether Public Works is doing anything to correct this problem. Mr. Reineking noted educating residents would be the best solution.

Comm. Churchill inquired as to whether there are set time limits for guest speakers at regular monthly NRC meetings. The Commissioners discussed this topic, and determined a maximum of 15 minutes would be allowed for guest speakers at regular NRC monthly meetings, excluding questions.

Student Comm. Ramirez provided information on an upcoming Fox River clean-up event on Saturday, September 18th.

Comm. Myers provided information on an upcoming clean-up event at Tekakwitha Woods also on Saturday, September 18th.

B. City Staff

Mr. Reineking noted there is an additional vacancy for a student Commissioner due to the graduation Student Comm. Chivari. There are two vacancies for student Commissioners at this time.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Churchill, second by Comm. Brens to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:40 p.m.