



AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agenda Item number: 3.b

Title: Natural Resources Commission Minutes – Information only

Presenter: AJ Reineking

Meeting: Government Services Committee Date: July 23, 2018

Proposed Cost: \$ N/A

Budgeted Amount: \$ N/A

Not Budgeted:

Executive Summary *(if not budgeted please explain):*

A duty of the Natural Resources Commission is to advise and consult with the Government Services Committee. The June 14, 2018 Natural Resources Commission meeting minutes are attached.

Attachments *(please list):*

* Natural Resources Commission Minutes – June 2018 meeting minutes.

Recommendation/Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

For information only.

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN
JUNE 14, 2018**

Members Present: Chair. Ralph Grathoff, Valerie Blaine, Kathy Brens, Jon Duerr, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Loren Nagy, Pam Otto

Members Absent: Raymond Hauser, Suzi Myers, Caroline Wilfong

Others Present: Jeremy Craft, Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking

Visitors Present: Kim Malay - Camp Kane Heritage Foundation

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the May 10, 2018 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Blaine, second by Comm. Brens to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:03 p.m.

3. Old Business

A. NRC Student Members

Mr. Reineking noted it is summer break for students, but Public Works has been in contact with the school superintendent, and an article regarding NRC student members was placed in *The Den* and on the City's Facebook page. No responses have been received yet, but once the school year resumes there will hopefully be some interest from students.

B. Arbor Day 2018 Photos

A photo book from the 2018 Arbor Day celebration was circulated during the meeting. Photos of the 2018 Langum Woods clean-up were also included. Tree City USA standards require an Arbor Day observance and proclamation; the photo book serves to document the City's observance and proclamation on April 27, 2018.

C. Acknowledgment of Former Commissioner

Chair. Grathoff acknowledged the committed service of former Tree Commissioner Ron Ziegler. Comm. Ziegler has stepped down, but was a long time member of the Tree Commission for many years and also served as interim chairman. All present acknowledged Comm. Ziegler's service to the City and the Tree Commission.

4. New Business

A. Camp Kane Site Plan Presentation

An overview of the plan for Camp Kane was provided by Ms. Malay of the Camp Kane Heritage Foundation.

- The development of Camp Kane will promote heritage tourism in St. Charles
- The plan will be implemented in phases
- The Jones Law Office structure was initially a holding cell for Civil War deserters
- The plan includes reconstruction of the Farnsworth mansion near the current sledding hill [the hill will remain clear for sledding]
- The mansion will house a Civil War and underground railroad museum

- The plan includes an outdoor education center with circular seating, which will be utilized for presentations
- Paths through the camp/park will connect to paths already in Langum Woods
- Accessibility [ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act)] will be considered with regard to the surface material of new paths
- The path system will eventually link Camp Kane and Langum Woods with the cemetery located on South 7th Avenue

Mr. Reineking reported fifteen Oak trees were planted on the City-owned parcel to the north of the cemetery on South 7th Avenue. A prairie flower and native plant understory is also part of the City's plan for this area.

Chair. Grathoff inquired as to the Foundation's goal for Langum Woods. Ms. Malay explained the natural paths in the woods will be maintained, and plant identification and historic signage along the path is suggested.

Comm. Otto asked where the ADA accessible paths would be located. Ms. Malay explained ADA accessibility would not extend into the paths through Langum Woods. Comm. Otto stated the NRC's interest is in the continued health of Langum Woods. Clearing brush from the woods and preserving wildflowers are key. Perhaps Camp Kane volunteers would assist the NRC with Langum Woods maintenance activities. Restoration workdays are generally from November to February to ensure plants are not damaged. Chair. Grathoff noted neighbors / residents in the Langum Park area have also volunteered in the past.

The NRC thanked Ms. Malay for her presentation. The Foundation and the NRC will work in cooperation for the preservation of Langum Woods and the development of Camp Kane.

B. Invasive Species at History Museum

Comm. Otto informed the NRC that she noticed the invasive species Black Swallow-Wort plants, also known as Black Dog Strangling Vine, growing in the front garden of the History Museum. Comm. Duerr noticed this plant as well and noted it may have been transported when the rose bushes were planted in the museum garden. Comm. Duerr stated he removed the plant from the museum garden, but he has noticed it in other places in the City as well.

C. NRC Social Media

Comm. Goudreau suggested utilizing social media to publicize information on the NRC such as invasive species, volunteering and education and to increase visibility, similar to the Facebook page of America in Bloom. Mr. Reineking explained the City's Communications Division Manager would be the resource for the NRC with regard to social media. Chair. Grathoff asked if the City would assist the NRC in updating the proposed social media. Mr. Reineking will speak with the Communications Division Manager about this proposal. Ms. D'Argento noted Comm. Myers recently wrote an article for the City's newsletter, *The Den* that publicized opportunities for NRC student members. The article was published in the June 2018 issue. Mr. Reineking encouraged all members of the NRC to consider writing articles for *The Den*.

D. New Contracted City Refuse/Recycling Services

Comm. Goudreau commented on the City's new refuse and recycling service provider, Lakeshore Recycling Systems, which offers additional services including food scrap collection. Comm. Duerr mentioned that countries outside the U.S. are limiting their recycling activities, which may impact recycling here as well. Comm. Blaine commented education and reducing are solutions and noted California Pizza Kitchen no longer provides

plastic straws with every drink, reducing recycling; straws are still available upon request. Comm. Goudreau suggested the NRC may consider creating educational displays for the public explaining refuse versus recycling. A display could be placed at the library, for example. Comm. Goudreau noted Blue Goose Market is selling reusable stainless steel straws. The proposed social media for the NRC could include information regarding reducing the need for recycling, publicizing local businesses such as Blue Goose and reusable straws, for example. Comm. Otto agreed promoting the message of reducing is the preferred option. However, “environmental” issues can be perceived as somewhat negative by the public.

E. Proposed Revisions to Tree Ordinance

Comm. Nagy proposed an update to the City’s Tree Ordinance [City Code Section 12.20] with regard to the “not recommended” tree list and including additional information, such as tree removal/replacement and maintaining a tree canopy. Chair. Grathoff explained this information is included in the Urban Forestry Management Plan [UFMP]. Mr. Reineking informed the NRC there is a tree preservation ordinance under development; he will provide more information on the ordinance at the next NRC meeting. Chair. Grathoff noted an annual review of the UFMP was due and could address some of these issues if necessary.

5. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

In Comm. Myers’ absence, Ms. D’Argento informed the NRC the book donation order had been placed for *The Survivor Tree*.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

Comm. Otto commented on the support by the Camp Kane Heritage Foundation for Langum Woods.

6. Communications – Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports May 2018

Motion by Comm. Nagy to approve the above-referenced reports and place into the public record, second by Comm. Brens. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:09 p.m.

7. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Comm. Otto inquired if Ash tree seedlings should be saved. Comm. Nagy responded by explaining the seedlings would grow into a food source for the Emerald Ash Borer and, therefore, should not be grown.

Comm. Brens and Comm. Blaine mentioned the upcoming events Foodie Fest and Monarchs and Milkweed, respectively.

B. City Staff

None.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Comm. Nagy to adjourn the meeting, second by Comm. Blaine. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:16 p.m.