

**AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Agenda Item number: 3.b

Title: Natural Resources Commission Minutes – Information only

Presenter: AJ Reineking

Meeting: Government Services Committee

Date: September 23, 2019

Proposed Cost: \$ n/a

Budgeted Amount: \$

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 August 8, 2019 Natural Resources Commission meeting minutes are attached.

Attachments *(please list):*

* Natural Resources Commission Minutes – August 2019 meeting minutes.

Recommendation/Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

For information only.

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN
AUGUST 8, 2019**

Members Present: Chairman Ralph Grathoff, Isabella Bernat, Kathy Brens, Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Jillian Leturno, Suzi Myers, Loren Nagy, Claire Norman, Pam Otto

Members Absent: Jon Duerr, Chloe Fanning, Ryan Johnson, Caroline Wilfong

Others Present: Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking

Visitors Present: None.

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Introduction of Visitors, Comments and Concerns

None.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the July 11, 2019 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Brens, second by Comm. Myers to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:02 p.m.

4. Old Business

A. Storm Drain Markers

Comm. Goudreau reported an additional twenty-two storm drain markers were installed on July 18, 2019. The next installations are scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2019.

B. Greenest Region Compact II

Mr. Reineking informed the NRC the Greenest Region Compact II [GRC] resolution would be on the agenda for the city's Government Services Committee meeting on Monday, September 23, 2019.

C. Tree Inventory Status

As a follow-up to Comm. Nagy's inquiry at the July 11, 2019 NRC meeting, Ms. D'Argento updated the Commissioners the status of the city's parkway tree inventory. The tree inventory is in the final phase [phase four of four] and should be completed by October 2019. Tree inventory data has been updated as each phase was completed. The three-year inventory project was made possible through a grant from the Morton Arboretum. Inventory data will be made available to the NRC upon completion.

5. New Business

Comm. Bernat will be leaving for college and will no longer serve as a member of the Commission after the August 2019 meeting. Chair. Grathoff recognized Comm. Bernat for her service and participation as one of the first student members of the NRC. Comm. Bernat thanked the NRC and city staff for the opportunity to serve on the Commission. All present congratulated Comm. Bernat and wished her well as she pursues a degree in conservation biology out of state.

6. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

Comm. Myers reported she recently visited Washington Island in Door County, Wisconsin, and had seen trees with Beech bark disease in the area's forests. Comm. Myers distributed photos and information to the NRC and city staff regarding Beech bark disease, which kills infected trees. There are approximately forty Beech trees in the city's current tree inventory, and the NRC and city forestry staff should be aware of this problem. Comm. Brens inquired as to preventing Beech bark disease; Comm. Myers responded that not moving firewood across state lines is a means of prevention. Comm. Nagy stated approximately 90% of tree diseases/infestations occur due to the introduction of non-native pests that infest native plants and due to non-native plants being grown in the area. Comm. Goudreau noted these types of occurrences may be more frequent now because the population is more mobile.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

Comm. Otto informed the NRC that Comm. Johnson is licensed to apply herbicide and he is in the process of being authorized to apply herbicide on Park District property.

C. New Committee

Comm. Goudreau reported Lakeshore Recycling Services has agreed to donate one dumpster for the NRC's pumpkin recycling event on November 2, 2019.

7. Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports July 2019

Motion to approve and place into the public record the Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports for the month of July 2019. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Nagy. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:27 p.m.

8. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Comm. Brens reported she was recently informed that one of the Maple trees in the parkway at her home has "burning blight," a bacterial infection. Comm. Nagy reported he has seen this problem periodically but not on a widespread basis. The city arborist is already scheduled to inspect the parkway trees at Comm. Brens address; the inspection should be completed within a few days.

Comm. Norman stated she will be a member of her high school's Eco Club this upcoming school year and offered to have volunteers from the club participate in clean-ups, the pumpkin recycling event, etc.

Comm. Otto provided information regarding the International Day of Peace on Saturday, September 21, 2019. The Fox Valley Jewish Neighbors are involved in this event and contacted Comm. Otto regarding the NRC's participation on an environmental panel from the tri-cities area. Chair. Grathoff and/or Comm. Otto may participate on the environmental panel in connection with the GRC.

Comm. Goudreau noted the Friends of the Fox clean-up is also scheduled for Saturday, September 21, 2019. Volunteers are needed for this event.

B. City Staff

None.

C. Adjournment

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