



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 28, 2020

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 13, 2020 Natural Resources Commission meeting minutes are attached.

Attachments *(please list):*

* Natural Resources Commission Minutes – August 2020 meeting minutes.

Recommendation/Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

For information only.

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN
AUGUST 13, 2020**

Members Present: Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Ralph Grathoff, Suzi Myers, Pam Otto, Bryan Wirball. Present via WebEx: Ryan Johnson, Loren Nagy.

Members Absent: Kathy Brens, Angela Churchill, Lee Haggas.

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 7:03 p.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the July 9, 2020 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Goudreau to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:05 p.m.

3. Old Business

A. Greenest Region Compact II

Mr. Reineking reported on behalf of intern Jack Jordan [absent] regarding Mr. Jordan's discussion with Abby Beck, an alderwoman with the City of Batavia and former member of the Batavia Environmental Commission. The Batavia Commission condensed the information in the Greenest Region Compact [GRC] spreadsheet and presented it graphically to the Batavia City Council as a means to illustrate where Batavia had made progress and where additional work could be done. The Batavia Commission also developed a set of yearly sustainability goals. The presentation and goals may be viewed at: <http://cityofbatavia.net/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/11983?fileID=8545>. The NRC may consider making a similar presentation to the St. Charles City Council.

B. Student Commissioners

Chair. Grathoff inquired as to the status of the NRC Student Commissioners. Ms. D'Argento reported all of the Student Commissioners resigned from the NRC in July as they have graduated from high school and will be attending college out of state. The Commissioners noted the positive contributions made by the students and the value of having students serve on the NRC.

There are four open positions for high school and/or college Student Commissioners. Comm. Goudreau stated she would contact the high schools' Eco Clubs, and Comm. Myers suggested the NRC also contact high school department chairpersons to fill the openings. Comm. Wirball stated he would speak to the St. Charles District 303 School Board in his capacity as a member of the district's Citizen's Advisory Committee.

4. New Business

A. Open Meetings Act Training

Ms. D'Argento informed the NRC that all members of the city's Boards and Commissions are required to complete Open Meetings Act training. The training is done through the Illinois Attorney General's website, and Certificates of Completion should be submitted to the city as soon as training is completed.

5. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

Comm. Myers reviewed the upcoming articles the Commissioners are writing for *The Den*.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

None.

C. New Committee

Comm. Goudreau reported the second annual NRC-sponsored pumpkin collection is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2020. Dumpsters will be obtained from Lakeshore Recycling Services, and signage made by Public Works for last year's event will be re-used.

D. Single-Use Bag Committee

Comm. Nagy reported on an initiative by the Illinois Environmental Council [IEC] requesting signatories on a letter to the Governor of Illinois to lift the restrictions on reusable bags. A copy of the letter is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Earlier this year, as part of its response to the pandemic, the State of Illinois directed retailers to discontinue the use of reusable bags. The basis of the IEC request to resume use of reusable bags as stated in the letter is: "no evidence exists of virus transmission from surfaces..." Comm. Nagy inquired as to whether the NRC could be among the signatories of the letter. Staff noted the NRC has an advisory role to the city's Government Services Committee [GSC], and the IEC letter would be discussed with the Asst. Director of Public Works, who interfaces with the GSC.

6. Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports

Motion to approve and place into the public record the Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports for the months of June and July 2020. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Galante to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:22 p.m.

7. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Chair. Grathoff acknowledged the dedicated service of former NRC Commissioner Caroline Wilfong, who recently resigned upon the expiration of her term. Comm. Wilfong was a member of the Tree Commission and NRC for several years, and was involved in planning and photographing the city's Arbor Day celebrations, among her many other contributions to the NRC. All present acknowledged Comm. Wilfong's service to the city, the Tree Commission and the NRC.

B. City Staff

None.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Otto, second by Comm. Goudreau to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:25 p.m.