

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING  
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN  
NOVEMBER 8, 2018**

**Members Present:** Chairman Ralph Grathoff, Isabella Bernat, Jon Duerr, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Ray Hauser, Pam Otto

**Members Absent:** Valerie Blaine, Kathy Brens, Suzi Myers, Loren Nagy, Caroline Wilfong

**Others Present:** AJ Reineking

**Visitors Present:** Chloe Fanning, William Koehl

**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**

Chloe Fanning introduced herself to all present. Ms. Fanning is a senior at St. Charles East High School. She expressed her interest in joining the Natural Resources Commission [NRC] as a student member as her time permits. Ms. Fanning previously submitted a written request to join the NRC along with her academic and volunteer information. This information was provided to the Commission in October.

Motion to nominate Ms. Fanning as a student member of the NRC. Motion by Comm. Otto, second by Comm. Hauser to nominate Ms. Fanning. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:03 p.m. Chair. Grathoff welcomed Ms. Fanning to the Commission.

William Koehl of the Central Kane County League of Women Voters [LWV] reintroduced himself to all present [he also attended the October 11, 2018 NRC meeting]. Mr. Koehl discussed an October 2018 report issued by the International Panel on Climate Change [IPCC]; he would like all the environmental-related commissions in the Fox Valley to be aware of the content of the IPCC report. Mr. Koehl will forward copies of the report to City staff for e-mail distribution to the NRC.

**3. Minutes Review and Approval**

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the October 11, 2018 Natural Resources Commission meeting. Motion by Comm. Hauser, second by Comm. Duerr to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:07 p.m.

**4. Old Business**

**A. Urban Forestry Management Plan Updates**

Mr. Reineking discussed the summary of updates to the Urban Forestry Management Plan [UFMP]. A copy of the summary is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Reineking noted the most substantive updates are to the lists of Unacceptable and Acceptable Species which will require an ordinance amendment [City Code, Title 12, Chapter 12.20, Section 30.D].

**B. Storm Drain Markers Draft Proposal**

Chair. Grathoff distributed a draft proposal regarding the NRC's storm drain marker initiative. The proposal included several marker designs, and Chair. Grathoff asked the Commissioners to select the design they preferred. The proposal is for an initial installation of

75 storm drain markers/medallions at a cost of \$432.09. The markers should last 20 – 30 years according to the manufacturer. This initiative will be promoted on social media, and the storm drain locations will be determined by City staff based on need and visibility. Mr. Reineking stated the storm drain locations will generally be between 7th Street and 7th Avenue in the downtown area. Comm. Otto noted the importance of educating residents that the storm drains lead directly to the river, without water treatment. Based on the Commissioners preference, the storm drain marker/medallion design selected was “No Dumping Drains To River” [as represented below]. The proposal will be presented to the City’s Government Services Committee at the next scheduled meeting in January 2019.



### **C. Retention Ponds Original Plans for Meijer Location**

Mr. Reineking reported the plans on file with the City do not include separate landscaping specifications for the Meijer site. However, the plans note shade trees, ornamental trees, evergreen trees, natural areas, planters and permanent and temporary seed mixes at the site. The Commissioners reviewed the plans in connection with the location of the new Wahlburgers restaurant scheduled to be built. Comm. Otto explained the restaurant development at this site may be an opportunity for the NRC to be involved in having stigmite plants removed and the retention pond area cleaned up. Comm. Duerr agreed that the retention pond area could be improved, but was unsure of the NRC’s role in this issue as the area is on private property.

Mr. Reineking stated that he had mentioned the NRC’s discussions on this issue to the City’s Community & Economic Development Department. The Commissioners offered their assistance as a resource for the improvement of the retention pond, and asked if Mr. Reineking could facilitate a meeting for this purpose. Mr. Reineking will speak to the City’s Development Review team to determine if there may be an opportunity for a meeting with the NRC. Mr. Reineking will follow up with Comm. Otto next week.

### **D. Pumpkin Collection Recap**

Comm. Goudreau reported the NRC’s first annual pumpkin collection and recycling event was a success. Approximately 180 cars dropped off multiple pumpkins, including a collection from the St. Charles Underground teen center. A total of 578 pumpkins and gourds were collected and diverted from the landfill, thereby reducing methane gas, which contributes to climate change. There was great volunteer participation including Chair. Grathoff, student Comm. Bernat and other students from St. Charles schools. Signage the City created for the event also helped to make the pumpkin collection a success. A more central location may be considered for next year’s event. An article recapping the pumpkin collection will also be included in the City’s newsletter *The Den*.

## **5. New Business**

### **A. Arbor Day 2019 Student Participation**

Comm. Otto summarized the different ways St. Charles students have participated in prior Arbor Day celebrations, but due to curriculum changes student participation may be reduced going forward. Comm. Otto asked student Comms. Bernat and Fanning for ideas and ways to

involve students of all grades in the City's Arbor Day event. Student Comm. Fanning offered to ask her science teacher to announce the event in class and explain how students may get involved; she also suggested the choir and jazz band could also be invited to participate in Arbor Day.

**6. Committee Reports**

**A. Education Committee**

None.

**B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee**

Comm. Otto explained that November through March are the best months for volunteers to participate in clean-up activities at Langum Woods. Removing non-native plants and undergrowth is important to allow sunlight to reach young Oak trees. Wildflower rescue work has also been done in Langum Woods. Comm. Otto will coordinate with City staff to determine what work needs to be done, and inform the Commissioners at the next NRC meeting.

**7. Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports October 2018**

Motion by Comm. Duerr to approve the Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports and place into the public record, second by Comm. Hauser. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:55 p.m.

**8. Additional Items**

**A. Commissioners**

Comm. Hauser distributed summary information regarding monarch butterflies [previously discussed at the October 2018 NRC meeting]. This topic will be further discussed at the next NRC meeting in December.

Comm. Duerr thanked Mr. Koehl for attending the meeting. The NRC will review the IPCC information, which will be emailed to the Commissioners by City staff.

**B. City Staff**

Mr. Reineking informed the Commission Fall 2018 planting information will be provided with the November 2018 report at the December meeting.

**C. Visitors**

None.

**9. Adjournment**

Motion by Comm. Hauser to adjourn the meeting, second by Comm. Otto. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:58 p.m.

## Natural Resources Commission – Storm Drain medallion project

### Rational

The NRC wishes to further public education on storm water management and ultimately where storm water drains to. In addition the subject of storm water stenciling was noted by AIB judges.

Storm drain marking helps in educating the public that most storm drains go directly into waterways untreated. Much more eco-friendly than marking drains with spray paint.

### Proposal

Apply 75 storm drain medallions in the spring of 2019. Medallions 3" x 5-¼" and similar to the pictured medallions. Medallions are installed on top of the storm drains curb next to storm drain with adhesive.



### Sites

Medallions will be applied at locations determined most necessary by city of St. Charles staff. Criterion for location choice include; drains having no existing 'drains to waterway' marking or imprint. Residential areas. Drains determined by the City Staff to have the most impact and 'need' for markings.

### Budget

NRC is requesting a budget amount of \$432.09 to purchase the medallions and adhesive required for installation.

### Installation

NRC will coordinate volunteers to apply medallion with city permission, i.e. insurance and legal o.k.

The NRC will promote this project through its social media account and possibly a blog post.

## MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

*Daily Herald* (09/17/2018, Sec 1, p. 1)

1. Population has declined (88% 1999-2012, stable for last 4 years)
  - a. Source: Illinois Department of Natural Resources
  - b. Status Goal: “threatened,” not “endangered”
2. Monarch Watch (nonprofit advocacy group)
  - a. Tagging butterflies since 1992
  - b. Selling milkweed plants
  - c. Monarch Way Station Program since 2006
3. Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network
  - a. Doug Taron, Director &
  - b. chief curator, Chicago Academy of Sciences
4. In order to accommodate butterflies in your backyard:
  - a. Plant native milkweed plants (for larvae to eat)
  - b. Five varieties easy to find: common, swamp, butterfly, horsetail & poke
  - c. Add nectar producing plants: “black-eyed Susans, blazing stars, purple coneflower, goldenrod asters, ironweeds and wild bergamot.”
  - d. “Avoid using pesticides or cutting the lawn too often.”
5. For additional information:
  - a. Sites: [monarchlab.org](http://monarchlab.org), [monarch-butterfly.com](http://monarch-butterfly.com), and [monarchjointventure.org](http://monarchjointventure.org)
  - b. Google: “raising monarchs”

**2018 UPDATES TO URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

1. Tree Commission changed to Natural Resources Commission – entire document.
2. *Forward and Acknowledgements* – page 1 – added paragraph at bottom of page:  

“The Urban Forestry Management Plan provides direction to the City of St. Charles. The best management practices in the Plan are also applicable for private residential tree care. For additional information residents may consult the Morton Arboretum website at <http://www.mortonarb.org>.”
3. *Current Parkway Tree Species Composition, and Species Diversity: Current and Projected* – pages 7, 8 and 9 – to be updated upon completion of tree inventory by Graf Tree Care.
4. *Requirements and Standards, City of St. Charles 2.* – page 12 – added “Consideration will be given to contractors with arborist and line clearance arborist certifications.”
5. *Requirements and Standards ANSI A300 – Part 1, 5.* – page 16 – updated with “Final cuts will be made just outside the branch collar with the adjacent bark firmly attached.”
6. *Requirements and Standards, City of St. Charles 2.* – page 16 – added “Consideration will be given to contractors with arborist and line clearance arborist certifications.”
7. *Appendix B: Acceptable and Unacceptable Species\** – page 28 – updated as follows:

<b>Added to <i>Unacceptable Species</i> List</b>	<b>Added to <i>Acceptable Species</i> List</b>
Amur Corktree	Aspen – Quaking
Black Locust	Japanese Scholar
Cherry – Ornamental	Maple – spp
Chokecherry – Canada Red	Maple – Autumn Blaze
Fringetree	Maple – State Street
Maple – Silver	Oak – Black
Mountain Ash	Oak – Chestnut
Pear – Callery	Oak – Crimson Spire
	Oak – Sawtooth
	Oak – Shumard
	Oak – Ware
	Sugarberry

\*Ordinance change [City Code, Title 12, Chapter 12.20, Section 30.D]