

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
APRIL 13, 2022**

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Roll Call

Present: Comm. Kathleen Brens, Comm. Angela Churchill, Comm. Tom Galante, Comm. Heather Goudreau, Comm. Lee Haggas, Student Comm. Morrighan Hayes, Comm. Ryan Johnson, Comm. Laura Miller Hill, Comm. Chair. Loren Nagy, Student Comm. Callie Ramirez, Student Comm. Deetya Solanki [remote].

Absent: Comm. Suzi Myers, Comm. Pam Otto, Comm. Michael Stroud, Student Comm. Daniella Taylor.

City Staff Present: Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the March 10, 2022 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Brens, second by Comm. Churchill to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:04 p.m.

4. Old Business

A. Arbor Day

The Commissioners and city staff continued planning for the Arbor Day event scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. in Pottawatomie Park. The following items were discussed:

- 2031 Junior Girl Scouts 5th Grade Richmond GSNI Fox Valley Service Unit will participate in the flag ceremony.
- Nominations for the stewardship award were discussed and former Mayor Ray Rogina was selected as the recipient. Background: former Mayor Ray Rogina promoted the transition of the Tree Commission to the Natural Resources Commission; he actively supported the city's participation in America In Bloom; attended and participated in all Arbor Day celebrations during his time in office, and was influential in creating additional positions on the NRC for Student Commissioners to serve. Motion to present the Arbor Day stewardship award to former Mayor Ray Rogina. Motion by Comm. Galante, second by Comm. Haggas to present the stewardship award to former Mayor Ray Rogina. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:09 p.m.
- The Student Commissioners will each make a brief presentation during the Arbor Day event.

B. Commissions Expiring 04/30/22

Chair. Nagy requested those members whose commissions are expiring at the end of April to contact the Mayor's office to inform her if they are interested in continuing to serve on the NRC.

5. New Business

A. Annual Election of NRC Chairperson

Chair. Nagy expressed his interest in continuing to serve as Chairman of the NRC, unless other member(s) of the Commission would like to serve as Chairman. Motion by Comm. Churchill to re-elect Comm. Nagy as Chairman of the NRC, second by Comm. Brens to re-elect Comm. Nagy. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:23 p.m.

B. NRC Update to City Council

Chair. Nagy reported that on April 4, 2022, he provided an update to the City Council on the NRC's initiatives and activities including: the Greenest Region Compact; pumpkin, cooking oil and holiday lights recycling; the Urban Forestry Management Plan review; and single-use plastic bags.

6. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

On behalf of Comm. Myers, Ms. D'Argento reviewed the Commissioners' upcoming article submissions for *The Den* newsletter.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

Comm. Johnson will email city staff with the date and time of the next clean-up event in Langum Woods. On behalf of Comm. Otto, Ms. D'Argento reported that former NRC Comm. Jon Duerr will be conducting a plant survey of Langum Woods.

C. Community Sustainability Committee

None.

D. Single Use Bag Committee

Comm. Churchill reported on the results of the survey regarding single use plastic bags. Survey responses were favorable with regard to reducing the use of single-use plastic bags, including support for a ban on such bags. Logistics of self-checkout at retailers may need to be worked out. City staff will distribute the survey results to the NRC via email. A copy of the survey results are attached to and made a part of these minutes. The Committee will meet with the Batavia Commission again on May 4, 2022.

E. Greenest Region Compact Committee

None.

F. Urban Forestry Management Plan Review Committee

None.

7. Communications – 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 March 2022. Motion by Comm. Churchill, second by Comm. Johnson to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:44 p.m.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Comm. Johnson asked if the NRC could be informed of any trends the city arborist may be aware of such as pests, tree species not weathering storms well, etc. Additionally, Comm. Churchill requested more information regarding tree removals to be included in the city's reports to the NRC. Mr. Reineking stated there is a new Public Services Division manager and further utilization of the city's Treekeeper application is planned. Additional information will be reported to the NRC.

Chair. Nagy noted some of the trends he is aware of including Oak wilt especially in Red Oak species, a forecast for loss of mature Oak trees, Viburnum leaf beetle damage, and spongy moth [formerly gypsy moth] with hot spots in the Chicago areas of Arlington Heights and Palatine.

Comm. Johnson inquired about the types of erosion control blankets used by Public Works, and noted that plastic landscape netting is photo-degradable, but micro-plastic pollutants are still an environmental concern and the plastic netting is hazardous to wildlife, especially near the river. Mr. Reineking reported the city had ordered several types of coconut fiber blankets which will be used on trial restorations at the city's Fire Department.

Comm. Johnson inquired as to the possibility of having members of the NRC involved in the city's review process for plans and projects to offer comment. Comm. Johnson suggested commissioners might offer input on projects such as a city rain garden and intended species to be planted, for example. Commissioners could provide comments to the city as their interest and relevant expertise may apply. Mr. Reineking will look into this request.

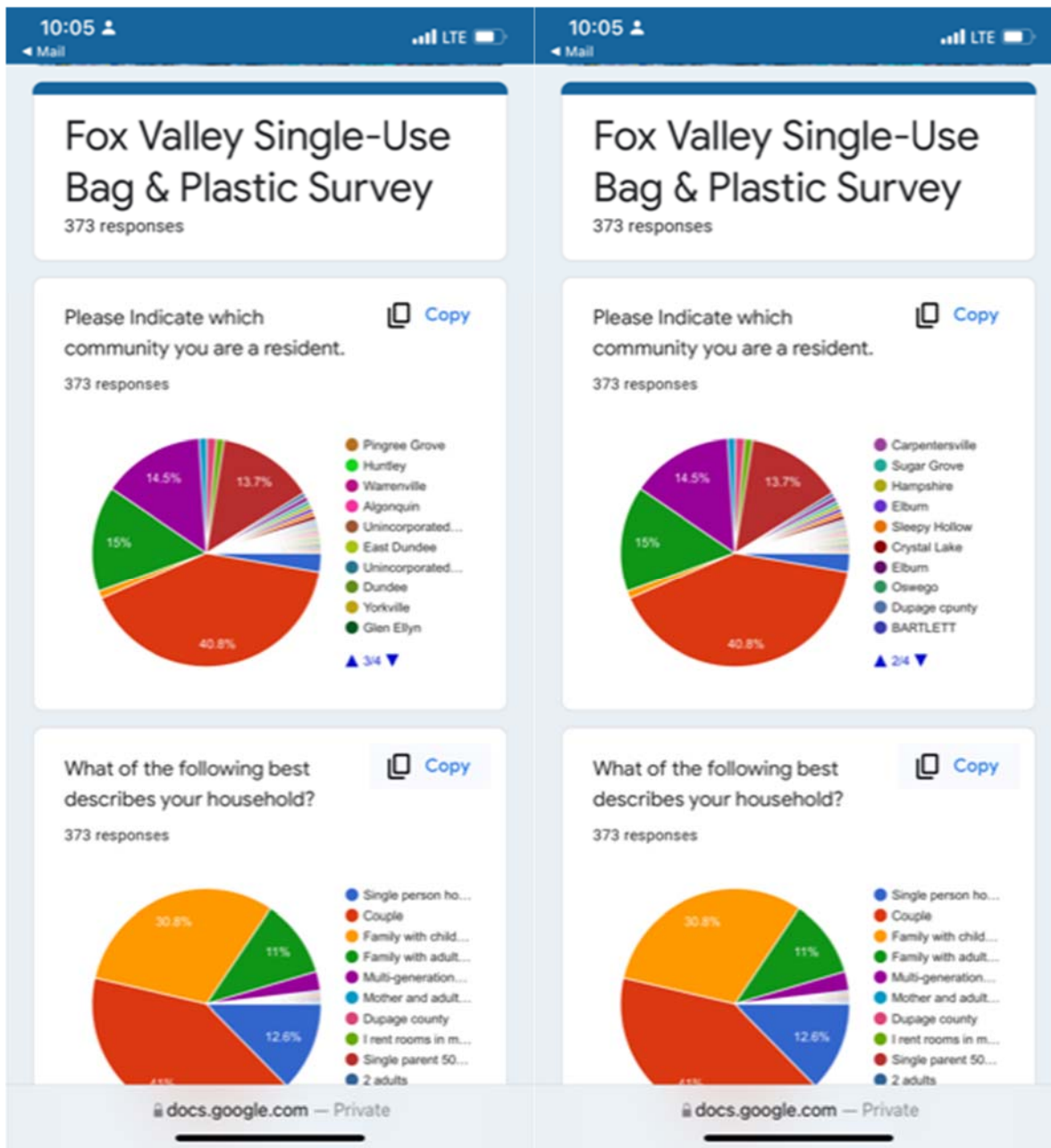
Comm. Johnson asked if there was an erosion management plan for the east side of the Fox River across from Mt. St. Mary Park. Mr. Reineking will obtain additional information on this inquiry from the St. Charles Park District.

B. City Staff

None.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Brens second by Comm. Churchill to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:07 p.m.



Fox Valley Single-Use Bag & Plastic Survey

373 responses

Fox Valley Single-Use Bag & Plastic Survey

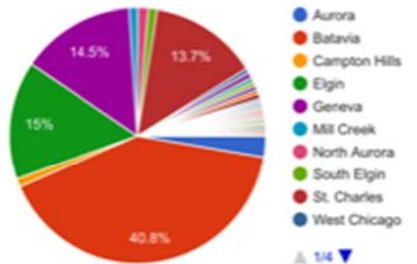
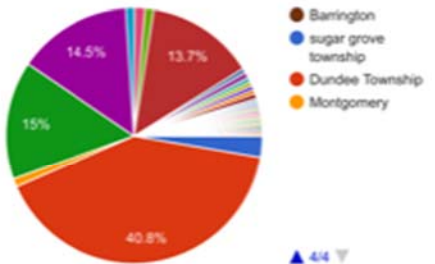
373 responses

Please Indicate which community you are a resident. Copy

373 responses

Please Indicate which community you are a resident. Copy

373 responses



What of the following best describes your household? Copy

373 responses

What of the following best describes your household? Copy

373 responses

