

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
JULY 14, 2022**

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Acting Chair. Churchill at 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Kathleen Brens, Angela Churchill, Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Laura Miller Hill, Pam Otto, Michael Stroud; Student Comms. Morrighan Hayes, Deetya Solanki.

Absent: Comms. Ryan Johnson, Suzi Myers; Chair. Loren Nagy; Student Comms. Callie Ramirez, Daniella Taylor.

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

Visitors Present: Jared Park.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the June 9, 2022 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Brens, second by Comm. Otto to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:04 p.m.

4. Public Comment

Jared Park, a student at St. Charles North High School introduced himself to all present. Mr. Park expressed his interest in river clean-up volunteer projects. Comms. Otto and Goudreau provided information on upcoming activities with the Friends of the Fox organization, a large clean-up event in September, and noted Student Comm. Ramirez [not present] organizes frequent clean-up events. City staff will facilitate communication between Mr. Park and Student Comm. Ramirez.

5. Old Business

A. Joint Meeting

Ms. D'Argento informed the Commissioners the joint meeting with the Batavia Environmental Commission and Geneva Natural Resources Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 13, 2022 starting at 5:00 pm.

6. New Business

A. Spongy Moths [Formerly Known as Gypsy Moths]

Mr. Reineking reported on the Public Works' actions to mitigate spongy moths found in the southeast quadrant of the city. The moths have not spread widely, but are densely populated within an area in the south east quadrant. Skyline Tree Service provided injection treatments to several trees and the city set 20 traps to strategically measure the moths' [possible] spread. Additionally, the city is coordinating treatment and funding with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Comm. Miller Hill noted Oak and Maple trees are susceptible to this type of insect. Comm. Goudreau asked what residents could do to help, and Comm. Otto explained removing eggs from trees is something that could prevent the moths from spreading.

B. Water Garden Presentation and Rain Barrel Sale

Comm. Miller Hill proposed the NRC host a presentation by the Conservation Foundation on water gardens. The presentation could be held at the St. Charles Public Library in the spring

and include a rain barrel sale. Comm. Goudreau suggested rain barrels could be ordered at the time of the presentation and picked up at the annual Arbor Day event. An article in The Den regarding the water garden presentation, along with a link to purchase the rain barrels, will be written.

7. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

None.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

None.

C. Community Sustainability Committee

None.

D. Single-Use Bag Committee

Comm. Churchill noted the upcoming presentation to City Council.

E. Greenest Region Compact Committee

Comms. Goudreau and Miller Hill reported the city's Bicycle Friendly Community application remains in progress; the application submission is due in the fall through the League of American Bicyclists. Comm. Goudreau noted the application is 87 pages in length and requested input from city staff. Comm. Stroud suggested the NRC could utilize information from the League of American Bicyclists website and the application process on how to make the city more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.

F. Urban Forestry Management Plan Review Committee

None.

8. Communications – Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports

Ms. D'Argento noted the tree activity for the month of June includes an inventory update of 638 trees in the north west quadrant of the city, and mulching over 230 trees. Motion to approve and place into the public record the Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports for the month of June 2022. Motion by Comm. Galante, second by Comm. Brens to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:40 p.m.

9. Public Comment

None.

10. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Comm. Brens announced her resignation from the NRC, and expressed her appreciation and enjoyment working with the commissioners and city staff.

B. City Staff

Mr. Reineking informed the NRC a project is underway to move the Public Works lift station from the west side of Riverside Avenue to the east side where the Jones law office structure is currently located. The new lift station will be upsized and located away from the river flood plain. As part of the project several trees will be removed and the law office will be relocated to the north.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Otto, second by Comm. Brens to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:45 p.m.

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