

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
AUGUST 11, 2022**

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Acting Chair. Churchill at 7:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Angela Churchill, Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Ryan Johnson, Laura Miller Hill, Suzi Myers, Pam Otto, Michael Stroud; Student Comm. Callie Ramirez.

Absent: Chair. Loren Nagy; Student Comms. Morrighan Hayes, Deetya Solanki. Daniella Taylor.

City Staff Present: Marcelline D'Argento, Victor Pierce.

Visitors Present: None.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the July 14, 2022 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Otto, second by Comm. Galante to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:06 p.m.

4. Old Business

A. Rain Garden Presentation

Comm. Miller Hill reported the rain garden presentation by the Conservation Foundation is scheduled for March 9, 2023, on the NRC's regular March meeting date. The presentation will be held in the NRC's usual meeting room at the city's Public Works Department from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, with 45 minutes provided for the presentation and 15 minutes for questions and answers. Information on the presentation and concurrent rain barrel sale will be included in The Den newsletter and the NRC's and Batavia Environmental Commission's Facebook pages.

B. Joint Meeting

Ms. D'Argento informed the Commissioners an invitation was emailed in late July regarding the joint meeting scheduled for October 13, 2022. The invitation was emailed to the chairpersons of the Batavia Environmental Commission and Geneva Natural Resources Committee. The joint meeting will be held on the NRC's regular October monthly meeting date, starting at 5:00 pm instead of 7:00 pm at a location to be determined at the 7th Avenue Creek.

5. New Business

A. Dim the Lights for Migratory Birds

Comm. Myers reported on World Migratory Bird Day which is scheduled for October 8, 2022. The event promotes awareness on the impact of outdoor lighting on dark skies and migratory birds. There will be another day for this event in May 2023. Comm. Myers requested publicizing the events in The Den newsletter, the NRC's Facebook page and in one of the display windows at City Hall. Additionally, the lights of the tower at City Hall could be turned off from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm on October 8th in support of dark skies. City staff will look into having the tower lights turned off and will reserve a display window. There is a flyer that can be used to promote the event. Comm. Stroud also suggested displaying the flyer

at the St. Charles Public Library and possibly contacting local radio and television stations. Comm. Myers noted the NRC and city's participation in World Migratory Bird Day will fulfill some items in the Greenest Region Compact.

B. Rusty Rodeo

Comm. Otto reported on the 4th annual Rusty Rodeo which was organized by the St. Charles Park District, Fox Valley Park District and the Kane County Forest Preserve District on Saturday, August 6th. Over 500 volunteers participated to remove invasive, rusty crayfish from the Fox River at Ferson Creek Park, Mt. St. Mary Park and Riverside Park. Rusty crayfish are a larger, more aggressive species of crayfish that are native to Ohio. Approximately 1,400 crayfish were collected and will be frozen and used to feed the turtles at Hickory Knolls. This type of crayfish is not generally considered a food source for people.

Comm. Otto proposed this could become a city-wide event, and asked if the NRC and the city would partner with the Park District for next year's event. City staff will discuss possible next steps and this topic will also be discussed at the October joint meeting with Batavia and Geneva.

6. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

Comm. Myers informed the NRC the Lights Out books were received and are labeled and ready for drop-off at St. Charles School District 303 elementary schools. Members of the NRC will assist Comm. Myers in distributing the books which include a letter from the NRC, and the flyer for World Migratory Bird Day flyer to the librarians at the schools.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

Comm. Johnson noted the woods will be reviewed after current the Public Works construction project has been completed.

C. Community Sustainability Committee

Comm. Goudreau reported that planning for the NRC's annual pumpkin recycling event in November is underway.

D. Single-Use Bag Committee

None.

E. Greenest Region Compact Committee

Comm. Myers reported the Kane County Board plans to implement a Climate Action Plan, and she contacted a member of the Board to get involved with the plan. Comm. Myers complimented members of the NRC whose activities support progress on the GRC including the lawn video [as noted below], Bicycle Friendly Community application and migratory bird awareness, for example.

Comm. Goudreau updated the NRC regarding the Bicycle Friendly Community application. The application will not be completed this year and will require assistance from the city. The Public Works Engineering staff is drafting a bike and pedestrian plan, and when finished it will facilitate the completion of the Bicycle application. Certain ordinances and resolutions will be part of the city's plan. Comm. Stroud noted that good things can take time, and Comms. Miller Hill and Goudreau agreed the Bicycle application will be an ongoing effort, completed over a period of time. Comm. Otto noted some of the St. Charles Park District's projects overlap with the NRC's, and could fulfill some of the GRC items.

F. Urban Forestry Management Plan Review Committee
None.

7. Communications – Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports
Deferred.

8. Public Comment
None.

9. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Comm. Myers noted the Kane County Farm Bureau received grants for water and prairie gardens designed in the shape of Illinois. Hundreds of plants will be planted by Sept 4 and 5, and volunteers are requested.

Comm. Churchill acknowledged the long-time service of Comm. Kathy Brens who recently retired from the NRC. Comm. Brens was a member of the NRC and former Tree Commission for many years, and actively supported the NRC's mission.

A video entitled "How to Fall Out of Love with Your Lawn" was recommended by Comm. Haggas and viewed at the end of the NRC meeting. The video addressed the environmental impacts of regular lawn maintenance including the use of water, herbicides and gas-powered mowers.

B. City Staff
None.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Haggas, second by Comm. Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:13 p.m.