

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
AUGUST 12, 2021**

Members Present: Angela Churchill, Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Ryan Johnson, Laura Miller Hill, Suzi Myers, Loren Nagy, Pam Otto, Callie Ramirez.

Members Absent: Kathy Brens, Elli Chivari, Michael Stroud, Daniella Taylor.

Others Present: Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking.

Visitors Present: Jack Thennisch.

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Introduction of Visitors, Comments and Concerns

Jack Thennisch, a representative of Clarke Environmental, introduced himself to all present.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the July 8, 2021, Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Goudreau, second by Comm. Haggas to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:04 p.m.

4. Old Business

None.

5. New Business

A. Clarke Environmental Presentation

Clarke Environmental [Clarke] is the mosquito abatement contractor for the city of St. Charles. Jack Thennisch presented information regarding Clarke's products and methods of mosquito control, low impact to other insects and animals, and mosquito control in relation to human and animal health. Mr. Thennisch answered questions from the Commissioners regarding targeted versus broad spectrum products, the half-life of the products Clarke uses and other related issues. A copy of Clarke's brochure is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

B. Comments – July 13, 2021 Climate Action Plan Chicago Region

Several members of the NRC attended the virtual Climate Action Plan event on July 13th. Topics such as sustainability, reduction in greenhouse emissions, adaptation to climate change and related issues were discussed. The Commissioners reported other issues such as monetary savings to taxpayers and community-driven action were note-worthy as well.

6. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

Comm. Myers distributed a flyer for the upcoming NRC-sponsored community event, "Protecting Dark Skies" which will be held on September 16, 2021. Event information will be included in the September issue of *The Den* and posted on the NRC's Facebook page. A copy of the flyer is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

None.

C. Community Sustainability Committee

See Education Committee report above.

D. Single-Use Bag Committee

Comm. Churchill reported she had attended a brief meeting with representatives from the Batavia Environmental Commission and Batavia City Council. The Committee is awaiting an update on the State of Illinois' plans for handling single-use bags. The next meeting with Batavia is scheduled for the end of August.

E. Greenest Region Compact Committee

Comm. Galante distributed a copy of an article he had written for *The Den* entitled "Idling: Bad for You, Bad for Your Car, Bad for the Planet." The article fulfills the objective of Item M37 Mobility of the Greenest Region Compact [GRC] to "*Educate the community on the negative impacts of car idling.*" A copy of Comm. Galante's article is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Student Comm. Ramirez suggested including information regarding idling during drivers' education classes at the high schools in St. Charles. Comm. Goudreau suggested offering education to all the schools in St. Charles regarding the negative impacts of car idling.

In continuation from the July 2021 NRC meeting, Comm. Myers requested information regarding the Commissioners' selected items of interest from the GRC. Responses as follows:

L30d – Encourage planting and registering of pollinator gardens through the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. Comm. Goudreau stated she would work with Comm. Otto and the St. Charles Park District on this item.

L30b – Promote native and sustainable landscaping initiatives community-wide by connecting residents to plants and information. Comm. Goudreau stated the annual native plant sale would support this item.

M34 – Encourage residents and visitors to walk and bike. Comm. Goudreau stated she would help promote walking and biking to work and school.

M3a – Earn Bicycle Friend Community designation. Comm. Miller Hill stated should would work on this item.

SC45 – Encourage the community to participate in sustainability initiatives and events.

SC50 – Host environmentally focused events. Comm. Goudreau stated the NRC's pumpkin smash, dark skies presentation and Arbor Day celebration complete these items.

W9a – Protect surface and groundwater from runoff and contamination. > Avoid the use of coal tar sealants on municipal property. The city does not use coal tar; this item is completed.

C9 – Discourage the use of high-emitting small engines, such as for landscaping [encourage the use of positive rather than discourage the negative]. Comm. Goudreau suggested promoting quiet electric lawn mowers and offering community incentives to trade in these types of equipment.

LP1 – Engage with academia and non-governmental organizations to support the GRC2.
Comm. Miller Hill noted she, Student Comm. Ramirez and Comm. Otto will work on a plan to have students from St. Charles high schools mentor students at Lincoln Elementary School’s environmental club.

City staff will obtain clarification as to whether non-voting Student Commissioners are counted in the number of persons in attendance at a non-public meeting as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Staff will report at the September NRC meeting.

F. Urban Forestry Management Plan
Deferred.

7. 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 July 2021. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Miller Hill to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:24 p.m.

8. Additional Items

A. Commissioners
None.

B. City Staff
None.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Galante, second by Comm. Goudreau to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:25 p.m.