

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN
OCTOBER 10, 2019**

Members Present: Kathy Brens, Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Ryan Johnson, Suzi Myers, Pam Otto

Members Absent: Chair. Grathoff, Jillian Leturno, Loren Nagy, Claire Norman, Caroline Wilfong

Others Present: Chris Adesso, Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking

Visitors Present: Andrew Diorio, William Koehl

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

In the absence of Chair. Grathoff, Comm. Otto served as Chairperson and convened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

2. Introduction of Visitors, Comments and Concerns

William Koehl re-introduced himself as a representative of the environmental team of the Central Kane County League of Women Voters [LWV].

Andrew Diorio, a senior high school student St. Charles East High School, introduced himself to all present.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the September 12, 2019 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Galante, second by Comm. Brens to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:05 p.m.

4. Old Business

A. Storm Drain Markers

Mr. Reineking provided a follow-up report from the September NRC meeting regarding newly installed storm drains without the casting “drains to river.” Mr. Reineking explained that concrete from the construction project is covering some of the castings, but will wear off in a short period of time. Mr. Reineking noted that there is one type of storm drain in inventory without casting that is used for special flat curb installations, but it is rarely used.

Additionally, Comm. Otto reported during the America In Bloom [AIB] Symposium [October 3 to October 5] there was a slide show at the awards dinner that included a photo of one of the storm drain medallions the NRC installed. Comm. Otto noted the medallions were noticed and appreciated by members of AIB.

B. Greenest Region Compact II

Mr. Adesso reported that Chair. Grathoff had attended the International Day of Peace Celebration on September 21, 2019 in Geneva. At the event Chair. Grathoff and representatives from Geneva and Batavia participated in a green initiatives panel discussion. Mr. Koehl noted the Greenest Region Compact II [GRC] was discussed at the event. Mr. Adesso stated the City Council had approved the resolution for St. Charles to join the Compact, and that the NRC would be called upon to provide guidance and recommendations to the city.

Comm. Otto stated the NRC's first steps will be to review the GRC to determine what the NRC and city have already accomplished before any recommendations are made.

5. New Business

A. Potential New High School Student Member

St. Charles East High School senior Andrew Diorio introduced himself to all present and expressed his interest in joining the NRC. Mr. Diorio described his plans to attend law school in the future combined with environmental policy. Motion to nominate Mr. Diorio as a Student Member of the Commission. Motion by Comm. Brens, second by Comm. Galante to nominate Mr. Diorio. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:15 p.m. Acting Chair. Otto welcomed Mr. Diorio to the Commission.

6. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

Comm. Myers reviewed the NRC's upcoming articles for *The Den*. Mr. Adesso reported he had received positive feedback on the NRC's articles.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

Comm. Otto asked if the city required volunteers to sign waivers. City staff will report back on this inquiry at the November NRC meeting.

C. New Committee

Comm. Goudreau distributed flyers for the Pumpkin Smash recycling event on November 2nd and requested volunteers. Comm. Otto noted pumpkins from the Park District's pumpkin bowling event would be brought for recycling.

7. Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports September 2019

Motion to approve and place into the public record the Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports for the month of September 2019. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Goudreau. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:29 p.m.

8. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Due to Chair. Grathoff's absence, Comm. Duerr will be acknowledged at the November NRC meeting.

Comm. Myers reported she had attended a de-icing workshop hosted by the Kane County Division of Environmental and Water Resources and the Conservation Foundation. The event addressed chloride pollution and salt usage by municipalities and snow removal services. A 70% reduction in salt usage was recommended. Comm. Myers stated water softeners and spreading salt on sidewalks and driveways contribute to the type of salt usage discussed at the event. Comm. Myers described salt cups being used in Wisconsin that are distributed or included with bags of salt to help reduce the amount of salt used; one small cup is sufficient to cover ten sidewalk squares. Additionally, the Commissioners and city staff discussed how public perception and expectations influence the reduction in salt usage. The Commissioners and city staff agreed educating residents on salt usage and reduction would be helpful.

Comm. Brens reported while substitute teaching she continued to observe garbage placed in recycling bins at the high schools [as previously discussed at the September 2019 NRC meeting]. Perhaps the NRC Student Members could discuss this problem with the school administration. Comm. Otto stated the Park District is considering going back to recycling bottles and cans only, which may reduce recycling contamination. Paper will continue to be

recycled in Park District offices. Mr. Koehl added that recycling contamination has become problematic in developing countries that process materials for recycling received from other countries. Gang activity related to salvaging items of value for profit has increased, and because there is so much contamination, the rest is often burned.

B. City Staff

None.

C. Visitors

See comments above.

D. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Nagy, second by Comm. Otto. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:47 p.m.

DRAFT