

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
OCTOBER 14, 2021**

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

Members Absent: Callie Ramirez, Michael Stroud.

Others Present: Chris Adesso, Marcelline D'Argento.

Visitors Present: Morrighan Hayes, William Koehl, Deetya Solanki.

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Chair. Nagy at 7:00 p.m.

2. Introduction of Visitors, Comments and Concerns

The visitors introduced themselves to all present [please see below for visitor comments and concerns].

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the September 9, 2021, Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Galante, second by Comm. Churchill to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:03 p.m.

4. Old Business

A. Joint Meetings

In follow-up to the September NRC meeting, Ms. D'Argento reported the last joint meeting with the Batavia Tree Commission, Geneva Natural Resources Committee and the NRC was hosted by Geneva on October 19, 2017. The Batavia Commission planned to host a joint meeting in spring 2019, but the meeting did not take place. Chair. Nagy and Comms. Myers and Otto proposed having the NRC host a joint meeting outdoors during 2022. This topic will be discussed again starting in January 2022.

B. Dark Skies Event Follow-up

Comm. Myers reported the attendance for this event on September 16th was disappointing. However, the presentations were very interesting and included information on the negative impacts of light pollution on plants, wildlife, circadian rhythm and public safety. Comm. Myers suggested having the NRC focus on this issue and possibly develop a proposal to present to City Council. Comm. Myers distributed information from the event from the International Dark Sky Association; copies of this information are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

C. Renewable Energy Sources/Naperville Sustainability Report

William Koehl, a representative of the League of Women Voters of Illinois Environmental Team, returned as a guest. Mr. Koehl stated he wanted to bring awareness to communities on energy-related issues including of where power comes from, costs of power, and contractual obligations. Mr. Koehl discussed the State of Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs Act [the

Act] and its possible impacts including the availability of clean power and how rapidly changes can be made to convert to non-coal sources of energy.

Comm. Miller Hill discussed an article entitled “Naperville Residents Encourage City to Work Toward Switch to Renewable Energy Sources.” Comm. Miller Hill suggested the NRC consider this topic, and requested rate study data and contractual information between the city of St. Charles and Prairie State from city staff.

Mr. Adesso encouraged the NRC to review the city’s electric rate information, and discussed issues regarding future infrastructure needed to meet energy demands between now and when the Act becomes effective.

5. New Business

A. Prospective Student Commissioners

Ms. Hayes and Ms. Solanki introduced themselves to all present and expressed their interest in joining the NRC as Student members. Both Ms. Hayes and Ms. Solanki are members of the Eco-Minded Club at St. Charles East High School and are interested in the mission of the NRC.

Motion to appoint Ms. Hayes and Ms. Solanki as Student members of the NRC. Motion by Comm. Churchill, second by Comm. Miller Hill to appoint two new Student Commissioners. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:40 p.m. Chair. Nagy welcomed the Student Commissioners to the NRC.

6. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

Comm. Myers summarized upcoming NRC articles for *The Den* and encouraged the new Student Commissioners to participate in writing articles in the future.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

Comm. Otto reported clean-up events would be planned during November through early March. Comm. Otto noted she is continuing to work with the Salvation Army’s after school program to have students visit Langum Woods.

C. Community Sustainability Committee

Comm. Goudreau reported volunteers are still needed for the upcoming pumpkin recycling event on November 6th. Additionally, the cooking oil collection is scheduled for the Saturday after Thanksgiving on November 27th; the event will be publicized in the November issue of *The Den*. Comm. Goudreau reported planning is continuing for the holiday lights recycling program. Comm. Brens stated she will volunteer to pick up lights for recycling.

D. Single-Use Bag Committee

None.

E. Greenest Region Compact Committee

Comm. Myers encouraged the Commissioners to review the items identified by the GRC Committee, and select something of interest to pursue.

F. Urban Forestry Management Plan

Chair. Nagy reported the city’s Urban Forestry Management Plan [Plan] remains under review, and noted some of the content with regard to private trees and property may be revised. Additional recommendations for amendments to the Plan, including the city’s

designated planting zone, will be discussed with the NRC when the review is completed by committee members Comms. Churchill, Johnson and Chair. Nagy.

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 September 2021. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Churchill to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:04 p.m.

8. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Comm. Brens provided information on the St. Charles History Museum gala and fundraising event on December 10th.

Comm. Myers provided information on monthly work days at Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve every third Saturdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Comm. Goudreau suggested the NRC facilitate a tour of St. Charles' solar power array for the community.

Comm. Miller Hill asked the Student Commissioners about some of the interests and projects the Eco-Minded Club is involved in currently. Student Comm. Taylor reported fund-raising and service projects are of interest to the club. Chair. Nagy explained the NRC is continuing to pursue the issue of single-use bags, which was a project initiated by two former Student Commissioners, and noted the importance of having input and support from St. Charles' high school students.

B. City Staff

None.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Churchill, second by Comm. Haggas to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:15 p.m.