

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN
NOVEMBER 14, 2019**

Members Present: Kathy Brens, Andrew Diorio, Tom Galante, Ralph Grathoff, Lee Haggas, Ryan Johnson, Claire Norman, Pam Otto

Members Absent: Heather Goudreau, Jillian Leturno, Loren Nagy, Suzi Myers, Caroline Wilfong

Others Present: Chris Adesso, Marcelline D'Argento

Visitors Present: Angela Churchill

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Introduction of Visitors, Comments and Concerns

Ms. Churchill was in attendance to observe the Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting as a potential new Commissioner.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the October 10, 2019 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Brens, second by Comm. Galante to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:04 p.m.

4. Old Business

A. Storm Drain Markers

Chair. Grathoff stated installations of storm drain medallions were likely done for the season based on weather conditions. Comm. Otto suggested prioritizing locations for future installations in the downtown and commercial areas, and in certain neighborhoods.

B. Greenest Region Compact II

Chair. Grathoff confirmed the Greenest Region Compact II [GRC] Resolution was approved by the City Council. Mr. Adesso stated now that the Resolution has been approved, the next steps will be for the NRC to review the GRC framework and make recommendations regarding potential projects, initiatives, etc.

C. Volunteer Waivers

On behalf of Mr. Reineking, Ms. D'Argento reported the city currently uses volunteer waivers only for emergency response purposes. For example, residents would sign a waiver if they were to volunteer for sand-bagging in the event of a flooding emergency. Mr. Reineking will discuss the need for additional volunteer waivers with the city's insurance carrier and the new city attorney, and report at the next NRC meeting.

5. New Business

A. Potential New Commissioner

Ms. Churchill was in attendance to observe the meeting as a potential new member of the Natural Resources Commission. Ms. Churchill introduced herself to all present, and the Commissioners and city staff introduced themselves to Ms. Churchill.

B. Curbside Food Scrap Composting

In Comm. Goudreau's absence, this item was deferred until the next NRC meeting. Mr. Adesso briefly discussed the organics collection services offered by Lakeshore Recycling Services [the city's refuse / recycling hauling service provider]. Comm. Brens inquired as to how curbside composting is performed. Mr. Adesso explained curbside composting would be picked up with yardwaste, and the composting process starts at a composting facility after pick-up, not at residents' homes prior to pick-up.

C. Detention Basin Reconstruction

Mr. Adesso called the NRC's attention to a project regarding the city's first detention basin naturalization which was completed 2.5 years ago. The detention basin is located in the city's northeast quadrant just east of Kirk Road and Foxfield Road. The shoreline was eroded and surrounded by turf grass. As a result of the project, the area was stabilized and converted to a naturalized landscape. The plantings are now well established, and Mr. Adesso requested input from the Commissioners as to their observations and opinions of the naturalized area. Comm. Johnson asked if other detention basin conversions are scheduled; Mr. Adesso responded not at this time.

6. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

None.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

Comms. Johnson and Otto suggested scheduling a clean-up day at the next NRC meeting. Mr. Adesso stated Public Works will assist with chipping and brush removal.

C. New Committee

In Comm. Goudreau's absence, Chair. Grathoff commented on the success of the NRC's second annual pumpkin recycling collection which was held on November 2, 2019. Volunteers included high school students, Chair. Grathoff and other members of the NRC.

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 October 2019. Motion by Comm. Otto, second by Comm. Galante to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:27 p.m.

8. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Chair. Grathoff acknowledged the committed service of former NRC Commissioner Jon Duerr, who recently stepped down. Comm. Duerr was a member of the Tree Commission and the NRC for many years, and shared his considerable knowledge of the history of St. Charles and the natural environment for the benefit of all. Chair. Grathoff stated Comm. Duerr left the Commission better than he found it. All present acknowledged Comm. Duerr's service to the city, the Tree Commission and the NRC.

Comm. Brens informed the Commission of upcoming community events.

Comm. Galante noted National Recycling Day is tomorrow, Friday, November 15, 2019.

Comm. Johnson inquired as to the length of terms for NRC Commissioners. Staff explained there are set terms for NRC members. Term information may be found in the Boards and Commissions Manual and the City Code.

Comm. Johnson asked if there were any updates regarding the 7th Avenue Creek Project. Mr. Adesso stated there are no updates, but informed the NRC of an upcoming presentation regarding this project on November 25, 2019 at the Government Services Committee meeting. Public Works Engineering Manager, Ken Jay, will present a project recap to the Committee. Commissioners are welcome to attend.

B. City Staff

None.

C. Visitors

None.

D. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Brens, second by Comm. Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:37 p.m.

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