

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN
JULY 9, 2020**

Members Present: Angela Churchill, Tom Galante, Ralph Grathoff, Suzi Myers, Loren Nagy; present via WebEx: Ryan Johnson, Claire Norman, Pam Otto

Members Absent: Kathy Brens, Andrew Diorio, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Jillian Leturno

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

Visitors Present: Jack Jordan, Frank Wanderlich, Bryan Wirball

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Chair. Grathoff at 7:02 p.m.

2. Introduction of Visitors, Comments and Concerns

Mr. Jordan, an intern at the city's Public Works Department, was in attendance in support of the Natural Resources Commission [NRC] and to offer his assistance to the Commissioners.

Mr. Wanderlich was in attendance, as a private citizen and resident of St. Charles, to voice his support of plastics reduction and offer his assistance to the Commissioners.

Mr. Wirball was in attendance to observe the meeting as a potential new Commissioner of the NRC.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the March 12, 2020 NRC meeting. Motion by Comm. Galante, second by Comm. Nagy to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:04 p.m.

4. Old Business

A. Greenest Region Compact II

Chair. Grathoff reported he and other members of the NRC participated in some of the webinars offered through the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning [CMAP]. The focus of the webinars was adapting to the impacts of climate change and building on the framework of the Greenest Region Compact [GRC]. Chair. Grathoff noted there are many stakeholders including local, regional and state representatives. Comm. Myers reported she gained a better understanding of climate change mitigation. The Mayors Caucus and CMAP information is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Adesso confirmed the city's Community & Economic Development and Public Works Departments have completed applicable sections of the Greenest Region Compact [GRC] spreadsheet with the current status as staff understands it to be. The Energy/Electric section of the GRC will be completed by staff and the document will then be distributed to all members of the NRC for review and next steps.

B. Curbside Composting

Citywide curbside composting began on April 6, 2020. The level of residential participation will be difficult to measure, however.

5. New Business

A. Plastics Reduction

Please see Committee Reports below.

B. Potential New Commissioner

Mr. Wirball was in attendance to observe the meeting as a potential new member of the NRC. Mr. Wirball introduced himself to all present and expressed his support of the NRC's mission and activities. His letter of interest has been submitted to Mayor Rogina.

C. Fall Tree Planting for Arbor Day

The city's annual Arbor Day event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the state of Illinois' response, which included a shelter-in-place order during the month of April. The Arbor Day Foundation waived the Arbor Day observance requirement for the city's continued Tree City USA status [St. Charles has been a Tree City USA community for the past 22 years]. To continue the city's annual tradition, Chair. Grathoff proposed planting a tree this fall in honor of Arbor Day 2020. The NRC and city will determine where the tree will be planted.

6. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

Comm. Myers reviewed the upcoming articles the Commissioners are writing for *The Den*.

B. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee

None.

C. New Committee

None.

D. Single-Use Bag Committee

Comm. Nagy confirmed the Single-Use Bag Committee is ready to move forward and requested suggestions from staff as to next steps. Mr. Adesso suggested the Committee contact the St. Charles Business Alliance and the city's Director of Community and Economic Development to obtain information and guidance. The Committee members could also meet with their aldermen to express their position on this topic as private citizens. Additionally, the Committee could plan to make an informational presentation to the city's Committee of the Whole.

7. Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports February 2020

Motion to approve and place into the public record the Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports for the months of March, April and May 2020. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Nagy to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:35 p.m.

8. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

Chair. Grathoff inquired as to the status of the Student Commissioners' participation with the NRC. Ms. D'Argento explained some of the students have graduated from high school, and staff will contact them to determine if they will continue to participate as members of the NRC.

B. City Staff

None.

C. Visitors

Chair. Grathoff encouraged Mr. Wanderlich to continue to attend NRC meetings with regard to his interest in plastics reduction.

D. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Nagy to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:04 p.m.