

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN
MAY 9, 2024**

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Chair. Nagy at 7:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Joey Cannizzaro, Angela Churchill, Tom Galante, Lee Haggas, Jeff Mengler, Loren Nagy.

Absent: Commissioners: Heather Goudreau, Suzi Myers, Pam Otto, Meagan Provencher; Student Member: Deetya Solanki.

City Staff Present: AJ Reineking.

3. Minutes Review and Approval.

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the April 11, 2024 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Haggas, second by Comm. Churchill to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:02 p.m.

4. New Business.

A. Arbor Day Recap.

Chair. Nagy noted the Arbor Day celebration at Davis Primary School was the best during his tenure. The school principal, teachers and approximately 400 students were very engaged and enthusiastic. Chair. Nagy noted Comm. Myers' presentation and talk was very good. Although the students did not participate in the tree planting due to the weather, they performed a song and poetry. All present agreed the event was very enjoyable.

For Arbor Day 2025, in addition to the annual Arbor Day celebration, Chair. Nagy suggested a possible "touch a tree truck" event with the NRC and the St. Charles Park District as a way to encourage wider community attendance.

B. Annual Election of Chairperson.

Chair. Nagy stated he was willing to continue serving as Chairperson. Motion by Comm. Churchill, second by Comm. Mengler to nominate and approve Loren Nagy to continue as NRC Chairperson. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:14 p.m.

C. Commissioner Vacancy.

With the resignation of Comm. Miller Hill there is a vacancy on the NRC. Chair. Nagy asked all members to let him know of anyone that may be interested in joining the NRC.

5. Old Business.

A. Bird City.

Comm. Haggas reported the City of St. Charles [City] was confirmed as a Bird City last night, May 8, 2024 at the Kane County Audubon meeting. St. Charles is one of the few cities in Illinois to be designated as a Bird City. Chair. Nagy and Comm. Haggas credited Comm. Myers with her persistence and hard work in receiving this honor for the City.

6. Committee Reports.

Chair. Nagy recapped the current NRC Committee assignments. A copy of the Committee assignments is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Comm. Cannizzaro will fill the vacancy on the Advisory Committee, which includes the NRC's involvement in the Greenest Region Compact [GRC].

Comm. Mengler noted the latest initiative by the Metropolitan Mayors' Caucus may focus on a different program than the GRC.

A. Education and Outreach.

None.

B. Engagement.

i. Rain Barrel Sales Update.

Mr. Reineking reported on behalf of Comm. Goudreau: 12 rain barrels were sold to 7 different residents.

ii. Pumpkin Smash 2024.

Mr. Reineking reported on behalf of Comm. Goudreau: this year's pumpkin smash will likely be the Saturday after Halloween on November 2, 2024.

C. Advisory.

i. Fox River Dam Removal Position Paper Discussion.

Please see Ad-Hoc Committee discussion below.

D. Ad-Hoc.

i. Fox River Dam Task Force Update.

Comm. Mengler reported the focus of the last Fox River Dam Task Force meeting was a presentation on the history of the dam. Comm. Mengler noted: the assumption is the State of Illinois owns dam but there is some uncertainty on the Task Force; the Illinois Department of Natural Resources built the dam; a webpage will be created by the City and the Park District; a hydrology report may be requested by the Task Force; a letter to the Task Force will be drafted by Comm. Mengler on behalf of the NRC.

Comm. Churchill stated she wanted to be on the record regarding the following statements: It is necessary for all members of the Task Force to consider only facts, not hearsay or opinions. If the members of the Task Force are unable to consider only factual information, they should resign from serving on the Task Force.

NRC Task Force liaisons, Comms. Churchill, Haggas and Mengler noted the report written by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contains useful, factual information that should be mandatory reading for all members of the Task Force. Additionally, they recommended an in-person question/answer meeting between the Army Corps and all members of the Task Force.

Chair. Nagy suggested the NRC could respond in writing as needed to provide clarification and information to the Task Force based on the discussions at each Task Force meeting. The NRC could respond as needed to provide clarification of information discussed at each meeting.

Comm. Mengler stated his letter, in part, will seek to clarify some of the information publicly discussed by the Task Force thus far. The letter will be signed and written by Comm. Mengler as first-person, on behalf of the NRC as a whole.

Additionally, Comm. Mengler proposed a field trip to sites where dams have been removed on the Fox River. The field trip would be for all members of the Task Force and open to the public as well. City staff will look into the logistics of this proposal.

ii. Draft Letter.

Please see Ad-Hoc Committee discussion above.

7. Communications – Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports

Motion to approve and place on file the Public Services Division tree activity reports for April 2024. Motion by Comm. Mengler, second by Comm. Churchill to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:02 p.m.

8. Public Comment.

None.

9. Additional Items

A. Commissioners

For the public record, Chair. Nagy thanked Comm. Miller Hill for her service and stated he hoped she will continue to remain engaged with the environment and the community.

Comm. Mengler noted at a recent Fox River Ecosystem Partnership meeting included a presentation regarding the fishery of the Fox River. A power point presentation from the meeting that will be distributed to the NRC by City staff.

Comm. Galante discussed his upcoming One Piece a Day article submitted for publication in The Den.

B. City Staff

None.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Churchill, second by Comm. Cannizzaro to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:08 p.m.