

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING  
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN  
JUNE 13, 2024**

**1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**2. Roll Call**

**Commissioners Present:** Joseph Cannizzaro, Angela Churchill, Tom Galante, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Jeff Mengler, Suzi Myers, Loren Nagy, Pam Otto, Meagan Provencher. Student Member: Deetya Solanki.

**Absent:** Nick Smith.

**City Staff Present:** Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking.

**3. Minutes Review and Approval.**

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the May 9, 2024 Natural Resources Commission [NRC] meeting. Motion by Comm. Churchill, second by Comm. Haggas to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:01 p.m.

**4. New Business.**

**A. New Commissioner Appointed**

Mr. Nick Smith was appointed to the NRC by Mayor Vitek to fill an opening on the Commission due to the resignation of Comm. Laura Miller Hill.

**5. Old Business.**

None.

**6. Committee Reports.**

**A. Education and Outreach.**

Comm. Myers provided a recap of the four recent NRC-sponsored bird walks: over 100 members of the community attended the bird walks, and the last bird walk on May 10th had approximately 40 participants including several high school students. The NRC will sponsor bird walks again next year.

Mr. Reineking informed the Commission the two Bird City signs awarded to the City have been installed at the north and south city gateways on Rt. 31 [near Boy Scout Island to the north and Roosevelt Street to the south].

Comm. Provencher suggested posting brief profiles of each of the Commissioners on the NRCs social media platforms.

**B. Engagement.**

None.

**C. Advisory.**

None.

**D. Ad-Hoc.**

**i. Fox River Dam Joint Task Force Update.**

The NRC liaisons to the Fox River Dam Joint Task Force [Task Force], Comms. Churchill, Haggas and Mengler reported on the last Task Force meeting held on June 6th and noted:

- Some of the sub-committees have suggested more studies may be needed
- The impact of the dam removal on water level of the river was discussed
- Consideration for the environment and wildlife was not discussed
- The Task Force website is very comprehensive:  
<https://engage.stcharlesil.gov/fox-river-dam?tool=qanda>
- The impact on the paddle boats at Pottawatomie Park was discussed
- The City Council, not the Task Force, will decide the future of the dam

Comm. Mengler would like to recommend having representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attend one of the Task Force meetings to provide additional information and answer questions.

Comm. Otto suggested providing videos to the Task Force of sites where dams have been successfully removed on the Fox River, and suggested focusing on the ecology of the river.

The NRC liaisons will request feedback on the letter sent May 16th from Comm. Mengler on behalf of the NRC to Task Force Chair. Jim Cooke.

The NRC liaisons will request time on the Task Force's agenda to discuss the NRC's recommendations.

The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for July 11th, the same evening as the NRC's regular July meeting. At the request of Chair. Nagy, the NRC agreed to meet on Wednesday, July 17th instead of the second Thursday of the month.

**7. Communications – Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports**

Motion to approve and place on file the Public Services Division tree activity reports for May 2024. Motion by Comm. Galante, second by Comm. Cannizzaro to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:54 p.m.

**8. Public Comment.**

None.

**9. Additional Items.**

**A. Commissioners**

Comm. Provencher suggested removing the Pear trees on Main Street in the downtown area since they are in very visible locations and are on the Urban Forestry Management Plan do not plant list. Mr. Reineking will discuss this request with the City arborist. Chair. Nagy noted contractors should be made aware not to plant Pear trees at new residential and commercial construction properties.

Comm. Myers noted the Tree Lilacs planted in the parkways are beautiful, but tend to attract Red Wing Blackbirds.

**B. City Staff**

None.

**10. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Churchill, second by Comm. Provencher to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:01 p.m.