

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

May 5, 2016  
City Council Chambers

A Special Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the City of Woodstock was called to order at 5:35 PM on Thursday, May 5, 2016 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

**I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

A roll call was taken.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jaci Krandel, Steve Wenzel and Chair Erica Poremba.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ed Ellinghausen and Laurie Kacmar.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Assistant Public Works Director Tom Migatz and Chief Deputy Clerk Jane Howie

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by S. Wenzel, second by J. Krandel to approve the April 7, 2016, Minutes. Ayes: Jaci Krandel, Steve Wenzel and Chair Erica Poremba. Nays: None. Absentees: Ed Ellinghausen and Laurie Kacmar. Abstentions: None. Minutes were approved.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**A. Develop action items ranking matrix from Environmental Plan Recommendations List**

E. Poremba asked Commission members if they reviewed the plan and set priority levels. The Commission said the plan is quite cumbersome.

#1-11, Land Use, Establish Community Garden Sites. The Commission believes this item is a High Priority, but they wonder if it's attainable. J. Krandel asked what property would be available for garden sites. S. Wenzel asked if there is any property available in Emricson Park and stated that someone would have to organize and manage this project. J. Krandel thought that possibly the Woodstock Farmers Market could assist with this project. T. Migatz will check to see if there is property available to construct community garden sites.

Next High Priority item, #14, Add provisions for Commercial / Industrial Conservation Design to Woodstock UDO; this may already be done. T. Migatz will check with Building & Zoning Department.

Next High Priority item, page 5, Urban Trees, #62, Establish a Tree Planting Program; #63, Provide education materials for residents regarding native trees recommended for urban planting; #65, Enroll and/or update the City of Woodstock as a Tree City USA member. E. Poremba believes there are some programs already taking place. S. Wenzel said The Land Conservancy has a program planting Oak and Hickory trees. J. Krandel said possibly The Land Conservancy could submit an article for the Woodstock City Scene.

E. Ellinghausen arrived at 5:43 PM

Page 6, #71, Promote Woodstock's Locally Significant Natural Resource sites in articles on the City's website and in newsletters. E. Poremba asked how could the Commission get this together. S. Wenzel said The Land Conservancy could write an article to promote this. The Land Conservancy provides a lot of nature walks, educational seminars and volunteer opportunities.

Page 8, #94, Establish a baseline of water use data and use to set targets for water use reduction. E. Ellinghausen asked if there's a history of water use data. T. Migatz said the City's Water Treatment Plant has this type of information. Quantity vs. quality. T. Migatz said there has been less water used over the years. T. Migatz said goals are great, however, even when people use less, cost of treating water doesn't decrease; electricity, chemicals and such. J. Krandel said this Commission's goal is to use less water; they are not as focused on the cost of the water. S. Wenzel said, even though water usage is down, should we be concerned about the water levels in the aquifers. E. Ellinghausen said Woodstock is getting by very well with the 6 wells that are here. Woodstock's draw down extends into Bull Valley, it's a static situation. T. Migatz said perhaps the City's Water Treatment Superintendent can provide a report going back 10 years. E. Poremba said we should hold off until we review this data further. How do we communicate to community members to reduce their water consumption? S. Wenzel asked about the effect on the Wastewater Treatment Plant? Should there be concern of local ground water? T. Migatz will look into these matters.

Page 9, #114, Conduct a detailed energy audit for all municipal buildings to identify areas to reduce greenhouse gases. S. Wenzel thinks this is a High Priority; Climate Change, Energy Audit for all municipal buildings to reduce greenhouse gases. E. Poremba asked, "How would the city accomplish this"? T. Migatz will gather data.

Page 10, #121, Evaluate the feasibility of adopting municipal composting to reduce the amount of household waste sent to landfills. E. Poremba believes numbers 121-126 are lower priority at this time, as there are other items the Commission will be working on first: #122, Expand the current curbside recycling program to cover other recyclables, small business and multifamily housing.; #123, Sponsor periodic specialty recycling drives, including electronics.; #124, Create a used appliance pick-up service and use them in City renovation projects.; #125, Develop incentives for large businesses & builders to increase and maintain their own recycling.; #126, Encourage homeowners to compost on a home scale through education and publicity. S. Wenzel asked what happens to landscape waste. T. Migatz said it goes to a company. With regard to # 121, Household waste sent to landfills,. J. Krandel will talk to the Defenders about this. E. Ellinghausen said McHenry County does hold some recycling events periodically.

E. Ellinghausen mentioned that hazardous waste is another issue. Could the City coordinate hazardous waste collection? E. Ellinghausen believes this is a High Priority. This is something that will have to be researched further.

**B. Mention of Council request to explore mosquito spraying alternatives.** This will be discussed at a future meeting.

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman E. Poremba called meeting Adjourned at 6:00 PM. The Commission did not decide on when the next Environmental Commission meeting would be held.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howie  
Chief Deputy Clerk