

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
August 4, 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, August 4, 2016 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Ellinghausen, Jaci Krandel, Steve Wenzel, Laurie Kacmar and Chair Erica Poremba.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by J. Krandel, second by S. Wenzel, to approve Minutes from May 5, 2016 Meeting: Ayes: J. Krandel, S. Wenzel, and E. Poremba. Nays: None. Absentees: E. Ellinghausen and L. Kacmar. Abstentions: None. Minutes were approved.

Motion by E. Ellinghausen, second by L. Kacmar, to approve Minutes from May 26, 2016 Meeting: Ayes: E. Ellinghausen, L. Kacmar, and E. Poremba. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Krandel and S. Wenzel. Abstentions: None. Minutes were approved.

Motion by J. Krandel, second by E. Poremba, to approve Minutes from June 16, 2016 Meeting: Ayes: E. Ellinghausen, J. Krandel, S. Wenzel, and E. Poremba. Nays: None. Absentees: L. Kacmar. Abstentions: None. Minutes were approved.

S. Wenzel noted a correction needed to the July 7, 2016 Minutes in IV. Discussion Items, second paragraph: "S. Wenzel would like to know if Woodstock will be tying in to the bike path on Rte. 14." Should be, "S. Wenzel would like to know if Woodstock will be promoting access from the bike path to the Square."

Motion by J. Krandel, second by S. Wenzel, to approve Minutes, with above correction, from July 7, 2016 Meeting: Ayes: E. Ellinghausen, J. Krandel, and S. Wenzel. Nays: None. Absentees: L. Kacmar and E. Poremba. Abstentions: None. Minutes were approved with correction.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

A. Staff Liaison Updates:

T. Migatz said, at this point in time, the City is not planning to host a household waste disposal event, as other nearby municipalities are doing this. E. Ellinghausen said that

these areas are not hosting hazardous waste events, but merely recycling events. With access to the Green Guide, which is on the City's website, this will direct people where to go to recycle or dispose of specific items. However, insecticides, and similar items, are not included. He believes the last such event for hazardous household waste was held at McHenry County College approximately 3 years ago. S. Wenzel said the IEPA may manage these types of events. S. Wenzel said perhaps City staff could bring this up at a MCCG meeting so that municipalities could get together to host these events going forward. T. Migatz will forward this suggestion to staff that attend MCCG meetings.

T. Migatz informed Commissioners that should they have any information they wish to share with City staff, all information should be given to T. Migatz; he will forward to staff.

T. Migatz is still looking for the misplaced bike rack. He recently found out that the Transportation Commission has been discussing this same issue. So, T. Migatz will discuss this with the Commission's liaison and bring updates back.

Get additional info from Tom (if needed):

With regard to testing the City's water, E. Ellinghausen mentioned that he can borrow a salinometer from Greenwood Township to complete the task.

B. Discussion of rankings of the high-priority items on the Environmental Plan Recommendations List:

T. Migatz has only received Priority List Rankings from two Commission members thus far. All rankings must be completed and turned in before he can proceed.

E. Poremba created a template / list of Priorities, which she shared with Commission members, to assist in completing their Rankings. She asked members to complete the Ranking order by August 20 and send it to T. Migatz so that this can be discussed at the next commission meeting in September. E. Poremba said she will create a rankings sheet for medium and low priority items also.

J. Krandel mentioned the small black ashtrays, attached to poles in the bumpouts, on the Square, and how they blend in and don't upset the appearance of the Square. However, it appears that some of the businesses have placed huge plastic urns/receptacles near their establishments, which looks horrible. Is this under our jurisdiction? Could the Commission make a recommendation to City Council to prevent these plastic urns from being placed on the Square? And, in addition, could the City add more of the little black ashtrays? Also, in some area it appears that the plastic urns are closer to doorways than the 15' rule allows. T. Migatz believes there is sensitivity in having the receptacles blend in to maintain the pleasing appearance of the Square. The Commission would like to recommend to City Council to disallow the urban furniture (big plastic receptacles) and install more of the black ashtrays. T. Migatz will look at the Parks Plan to see if there are some guidelines.

T. Migatz said there was some good conversation over the past few months about hazardous waste disposal and bike racks. Are these the top two priorities? E. Ellinghausen said he ranks household hazardous waste as one of the highest priorities.

L. Kacmar has been researching Tree City USA, the Arbor Day Foundation. She mentioned that Mayor Sager is interested in this, as well. The program encourages tree planting throughout communities and provides information on improving the maintenance and care of trees. S. Wenzel said there's been interest in this program in the past; however funds were not included / available in the City's budget. He noted that there has to be a minimum expenditure per capita. Perhaps someone can look into fundraising for this program. T. Migatz said in recent years the City's Parks Division has had to focus on the removal of Ash tree due to the infestation of EAB (Emerald Ash Borer). At this time the majority of Ash trees in the public rights-of-way have been removed and the areas have been restored.

Members discussed curbside recycling and trash collection. Residents pay MDC Environmental / Marengo Disposal through the refuse sticker program or they rent garbage totes. L. Kacmar said building contractors must separate much of their waste depending on the materials. S. Wenzel mentioned materials such as gypsum, ceramic tile, and roofing shingles. They're not sure what happens to old windows and other such items. S. Wenzel said he currently has a green contractor working on his house, so, he'll ask these questions and report back his findings to the Commission. L. Kacmar said she also has a contractor on site and they have approximately seven different piles for items; garbage and recycling.

S. Wenzel said he looked into alternatives for adulticide for mosquito control. There are not a lot of alternatives out there that would be different from what the City is currently using. The majority of the options are for larvicide (which targets against the larval life stage of an insect).

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by L. Kacmar, second by S. Wenzel; adjourn to Regular Joint meeting with Cultural and Social Awareness Commission at 6:00 PM. Ayes: Ed Ellinghausen, Jaci Krandel, Steve Wenzel, Lauri Kacmar and Chair Erica Poremba. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howie
Chief Deputy City Clerk