

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
January 7, 2016
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission of the City of Woodstock was called to order by Chairperson Erica Poremba at 5:31PM on Thursday, January 7, 2016 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Ellinghausen, Laurie Kacmar, Steve Wenzel, and Erica Poremba.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jaci Krandel

STAFF PRESENT: Assistant Public Works Director Tom Migatz and Planning and Zoning Administrator Jim Kastner.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Brian Sager and City Clerk Cindy Smiley

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment forthcoming.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

In response to a question from Chairperson Poremba as to what he would like to see the Commission pursue, Mayor Sager stated that he would like the Commission to move forward with the Action Plan for the Environmental Plan, including revisiting it to see where the Plan stands and to develop a scorecard as originally discussed. He also stated it may be a good idea for the Commission to identify elements of the Plan that should be priorities.

Mayor Sager then stated he would like to see the Environmental Commission focus on the broader elements of the environment, stating the City has forwarded many good things such as Ryder's Woods and the Bagless Project. He stated he would like the Commission to address the topic of air quality, which may be difficult due to its technical nature. He stated his feeling that this is an important consideration as the City looks down the road at highway improvements and as the City promotes new industry and manufacturing through its Economic Development initiatives. He urged the Commission to investigate whether the Unified Development Ordinance addresses issues associated with air quality so that the City is ready as the Economic Development initiatives progress.

Mayor Sager then expressed his philosophy that the Mayor should not engage in Commission matters so the Commission may give advice without bias. Despite this philosophy, he stated he would really like to see the Bagless Program move forward.

Environmental Plan Action Plan Review

Chairperson Poremba stated it appears the Commission left off on Page 14, #2. Geothermal Energy and recommended the Commission begin this evening's review at that point.

Following discussion which included the City's UDO, building codes, standards, and regulations as well as the interest in alternative energy sources that has been expressed by permit applicants, it was the consensus of the Commission that the following priorities be established:

2. Geothermal Energy

It was noted that should it be desired to establish standards for such systems, this should be done by ordinances revising building codes rather than the UDO.

- 181. Low Priority S. Wenzel to research tax credits
- 182. Low Priority

3. Solar Energy

It was noted that while the Plan calls for incorporation of solar or passive solar systems in municipal buildings, there has been no construction of new buildings nor is any anticipated. T. Migatz stated that some of the City's Lift Stations may incorporate limited solar systems. In response to a question from S. Wenzel, J. Kastner stated he is not aware of any permit requests for solar systems, stating these may be more common in the County.

- 183. Medium Priority
- 184. Medium Priority
- 185. Medium Priority S. Wenzel to research tax credits
- 186. Medium Priority

GREEN BUILDING

- 187. High Priority E. Poremba to research
- 188. High Priority City should seek grants
- 189. On-going Where possible, although no new building or renovations anticipated
- 190. High Priority
- 191. High Priority
- 192. High Priority It was noted that this may be something that is possible to accomplish in a reasonably short period of time.

SUMMARY

It was the consensus of the Commission to complete the review at the next meeting then move forward with development of a score card of priorities and an evaluation of the items that could be completed this year.

In response to a question from J. Headley, J. Kastner stated that the creation of Bicycle Paths in Woodstock was previously discussed and established as a high priority by the Commission

ADJOURN

Motion by S. Wenzel, second by L. Kacmar, to adjourn this regular meeting of the Environmental Commission and to reschedule the regular February 4, 2016 meeting to Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 5:30PM. Ayes: E. Ellinghausen, L. Kacmar, S. Wenzel, and Chairperson E. Poremba. Nays: none. Absentees: J. Krandel. Abstentions: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Smiley
City Clerk