

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the Statutes of the State of Illinois and the Ordinances of the City of Highland Park, the next meeting of the Natural Resources Commission of the City of Highland Park is scheduled to be held at the hour of 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2014 at the City of Highland Park City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois, during which it is anticipated there will be a discussion of the following:

CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2014
HIGHLAND PARK CITY HALL
1707 ST. JOHNS AVENUE
HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS
6:30 P.M.

MEETING AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Minutes: June 11, 2014

IV. Business from the Public

V. New Business

- A. Wege Small Cities Sustainability Award – Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
- B. Discussion on Seasonal Update of Educational Displays at Rosewood and Millard Parks

VI. Old Business

- A. Status Report on Recycling Extravaganza Events
- B. Status Report on Coastal Management Educational Program Regarding Lake Michigan Protection Zone Standards
- C. Status Report on Article XIX Code Amendments & Steep Slope Best Practices Brochure

VII. Other Business

- A. Commissioner Comments
- B. Administrative Items

VIII. Adjournment



Memorandum

To: Members of the Natural Resources Commission

From: Karen Berardi, Management Analyst

Date: July 4, 2014

Re: Agenda Items for the July 9th Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Wege Small Cities Sustainability Award – Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Citizen Advisor Mark Nolan Hill will provide an overview of the annual Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Conference, where the City of Highland Park was awarded the Wege Small Cities Sustainability Award. Attached is the application that was submitted for the award.

B. Discussion on Seasonal Update of Educational Displays at Rosewood and Millard Parks

The commission will discuss the next seasonal update for the educational displays at Rosewood and Millard Parks.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Status Report on 2015 Recycling Extravaganza Events

Chairwoman Coyle will facilitate a discussion on modifications to the 2015 Recycling Extravaganza Events. Coyle and Staff Liaison Berardi met with Public Works to finalize recommendations for the Recycling Center located at 1180 Half Day Road. Further coordination is being conducted with the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) for a final recommendation and proposal as part of the City's 2015 planning

B. Status Report on Coastal Management Educational Program Regarding Lake Michigan Protection Zone Standards

Both the Staff Liaison and Park District Representative will provide an update on the educational program for coastal management, as discussed at the last commission meeting.

C. Status Report on Article XIX Code Amendments & Steep Slope Best Practices Brochure

Chairwoman Coyle will provide an update on the Steep Slope Best Management Practices. The item is scheduled for discussion at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on July 14, 2014 in front of the City Council and is scheduled for approval at the July 28, 2014 City Council Meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Wege Small Cities Award Application

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND
PARK, ILLINOIS**

MEETING DATE: June 11, 2014

MEETING LOCATION: Presession Conference Room, Highland Park City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:33 p.m., Chairwoman Coyle called the meeting to order and the Staff Liaison called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Coyle, Hannick, Ross, Sultan, Stone, Stumpf, Lewittes and Facchini

Members Absent: Matthews, Wagenius and Rheinstrom

The Staff Liaison declared that there was a quorum of the Commission present.

Staff Present: Staff Liaison Karen Berardi, City Forester Joe O'Neill

MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission—May 14, 2014

Commissioner Hannick moved to approve the minutes of a regular meeting held on May 14, 2014 as presented. Commissioner Sultan seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, Chairwoman Coyle declared that the motion passed unanimously (4-0).

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

Joel Cahn, 26 Lakeview Terrace, opined that the City should consider professional feedback regarding lakefront coastal management. Mr. Cahn also discussed his objections to the steep slope brochure and code amendments that the changes were too strict. Commissioner Ross asked Mr. Cahn what his specific concerns with the brochure were and Mr. Cahn responded that the removal of weeds should not be an offense with a penalty. City Forester O'Neill assured the commission that Mr. Cahn's concerns would be addressed in his upcoming presentation.

Chairwoman Coyle moved Agenda Item C first under New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

C. Consideration of Text Amendments to Article XIX of the City Code Pertaining to Steep

Slope Best Management Practices

City Forester Joe O'Neill presented on code amendments to Article XIX regarding steep slope best management practices. O'Neill met with Commissioners Sultan and Hannick since the May commission meeting for input on the recommendations and they have provided feedback on recommendations presented. Councilwoman Stone asked if common weeds were included in the list of plants allowed for removal without permit. Commissioner Hannick recommended that "common weeds" that are local or native to Highland Park be added to the list of plants able to be removed without permit.

O'Neill presented that the City will have the ability to determine replacement of trees with herbaceous plants or higher quality trees on a case-by-case basis if density was too great. Commissioner Ross commented that this ability will give the City more flexibility on the guidelines. Councilwoman Stone added that language be included in the final amendments that replacement plants are determined "at the discretion of the City Forester." Commissioner Sultan commented that the clause seemed too punitive; Chairwoman Coyle commented the code should be punitive. Forester O'Neill reassured the commission that the end goal of the amendments is to have high quality trees in Highland Park.

Chairwoman Coyle suggested that the date of the approval be added to the code for the land management guide. She further suggested that the brochure not be referred to in the code because it is not an official document and is subject to changes.

The code amendments will go forward to the City Council at its next scheduled meeting on July 14, 2014 following further staff review and Corporation Counsel review. Park District Representative confirmed that the deadline for the grant is September 30, 2014 which will be met based on the timeline provided by O'Neill.

A. Recognition of Student Representative Renee Facchini

Chairwoman Coyle read Student Representative Facchini a proclamation thanking Facchini for her dedication to the commission.

B. Consideration of Amendments to Article VII "Area, Bulk and Density" of Chapter 150 of the City of Highland Park Code Regarding the Lake Michigan Protection Zone for the 2015 Commission Work Plan

Chairwoman Coyle read a letter from Mr. Cahn requesting that the commission put the following items on the agenda to discuss the Lake Michigan Protection Zone standards 3(f), 3(h) and 3(i) in the Highland Park Municipal Code and use non-biased science-based coastal engineers to determine acceptable coastal structures. Coyle opened the discussion for the commission to consider this topic for the 2015 Commission Work Plan taking into account the commission's current work plan, the costs incurred and time implications.

Councilwoman Stone suggested that the NRC or staff decides on the subject matter experts that may speak to the commission. Commissioner Hannick was supportive of bringing in multiple experts and felt it was important to address this as a commission. Hannick supported an educational program or workshop that brings in leading professionals. Commissioner Ross supported an educational program and suggested that a subcommittee

be formed.

Councilwoman Stone suggested that if there is a conference on the topic, that staff attend. Commissioner Sultan suggested that a workshop be a region-wide effort. Chairwoman Coyle agreed that the commission be educated, but not that the event be opened to the entire community or region. Commissioner Hannick suggested that each commission meeting could open with one expert.

Park District Representative Stumpf was named to the subcommittee to find subject matter experts on coastal management. Stumpf stated that the commission should decide what they wish to achieve through the effort that is within the City's boundary of authority.

The commission agreed to pursue an educational program beginning in the fourth quarter in which coastal experts would be invited to present for 30 minutes at the beginning of each commission meeting.

Chairwoman Coyle recommended that the experts be un-biased. The commission agreed to not add the item onto the 2015 Work Plan until after the educational program.

Mr. Cahn, 26 Lakeview Terrace, asked to make a public comment. The commission agreed to recognize a member of the public. Mr. Cahn commented that these professionals understand the science of what structures cause erosion and damage, and therefore, can provide insight on the standards.

Commissioner Ross motioned to not consider code amendments in the 2015 Work Plan. Commissioner Hannick seconded. On a voice vote, Chairwoman Coyle declared that the vote passed unanimously (4-0).

OLD BUSINESS

A. Status Report on Taste of Highland Park Table, August 22-24, 2014

Staff Liaison Berardi provided a brief overview of the restrictions regarding a table at the Taste of Highland Park. The commission agreed to withhold participation at the Taste of Highland Park and instead attend other community events open to the public. Berardi will report back at a future meeting regarding other options to attend a community event.

B. Status Report on 2015 Recycling Extravaganza Events

Chairwoman Coyle reported on her meeting with Public Works Director Ramesh Kanapareddy and Assistant to the Director Annette Cardiff regarding the recycling extravaganza events. Public Works agreed to incorporate three Saturday events into the 2015 budget proposal that would be scheduled with one in January, the second in conjunction with the City's Spring Clean-up events and a third in September.

Councilwoman Stone suggested that either the Tuesday or Friday drop-off dates could be eliminated in order to accommodate the increased cost of Saturday events. Councilwoman Stone additionally suggested the City look into contracted staff. Commissioner Hannick agreed that one of the drop-off dates, either Tuesday or Friday, be eliminated to

accommodate Saturdays. Commissioner Sultan suggested that the Tuesday drop-offs are maintained and Saturday events occur quarterly.

The commission agreed to revisit the topic with Public Works and determine if elimination of one week-day could accommodate a monthly Saturday event. Student Representative Lewittes commented that cultural recognitions are considered when determining the date.

Chairwoman Coyle and Staff Liaison Berardi will meet with Public Works and report back to the commission at a future meeting.

C. Status Report on the Sustainability Master Plan for CY2014

Staff Liaison Berardi provided an update on the electric vehicle charging station usage since the station's installation in November. Berardi noted the gradual increase in usage since the installation. It was also noted that the City's Sustainability Consultant contract was renewed for Phase II at the June 9, 2014 City Council meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Ross inquired about the IGIG grant for the parking lot on Hazel. A status update will be provided at a future meeting.

Staff Liaison Berardi will send out an email to all commissioners to verify attendance for July and August meetings to ensure a quorum is present for both.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sultan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hannick seconded. Chairwoman Coyle adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Berardi, Secretary

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON _____

- WITH NO CORRECTIONS _____
- WITH CORRECTIONS _____
(SEE MINUTES OF [_____] MEETING FOR CORRECTIONS)



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

1707 ST. JOHNS AVENUE
HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS 60035
(847) 432-0800

May 7, 2014

Simon Belisle
Program Assistant
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2700
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Dear Simon,

The City of Highland Park is pleased to submit the Water Conservation & Efficiency Initiative for consideration of the Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award. Personally, I am most excited and optimistic about our application for this award. As you know, I have represented the City of Highland Park and attended every annual meeting since its founding by Mayor Daley over 10 years ago. With humility, I do believe my City of Highland Park is deserving of this most prestigious and notable award.

Highland Park is nestled along nearly five miles of Lake Michigan and understands the need to protect and preserve this critical natural resource. In 2013, the City initiated the Water Conservation & Efficiency Initiative that set in place certain regulations and tiered water rates, and also included efforts to educate the public on the environmental impacts of excessive water consumption. The initiative is expected to bring in water savings and a reduction of the environmental impact on diminishing resources in Lake Michigan.

If the City were to receive the \$5,000 grant award, it would use the funds to provide public education and outreach tools to encourage conservation of water at work, at school and at home. The City would consider public education tools such as a transportable water display demonstrating average household water waste, and informational material with tips to conserve water in our daily lives.

City Manager David Knapp and Water Superintendent Don Jensen endorse the City's application for this reputable award. We thank you for considering the Water Conservation & Efficiency Initiative for the Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award. If you have additional questions, please contact me at mnhillmd@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Mark Nolan Hill, MD, FACS
Natural Resource Commission, City of Highland Park
Professor of Surgery, Chicago Medical School



WEGE SMALL CITIES AWARD SUBMISSION



Date: July 4, 2014

To: Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award

From: City of Highland Park, Illinois

Project Name: Water Conservation & Efficiency Initiative

The City of Highland Park recognizes the importance of responsibly managing our water resources and has taken proactive measures to create efficiencies in its water distribution as well as maintain its **environmental stewardship** and therefore, enacted the Water Conservation & Efficiency Initiative in Spring 2013. The Initiative was the culmination of much research and deliberation and entails implementation of several water waste reduction measures to include:

- Establishment of a 3-tier "Conservation Rate" Water Pricing Plan
- Implementation of Odd/Even Sprinkling Schedule
- Requirement of Smart Sensors on (new) Lawn Sprinkler Systems
- Public Education

The three-tiered rate plan applies to properties using a higher volume of water who are then charged a small and manageable increase in water rates. Rates were chosen to be manageable and of no more than 15 percent increase in order to maintain the **economic vitality** of the city and its citizens.

This revenue neutral pricing structure has resulted in conservation of water primarily through reduction in lawn irrigation. The City will review the program annually in order to assess the program's influence on conservation behavior and on revenue and make necessary adjustments to the rate structure.

The first step in developing the tiered rate structure was to identify which customer groups should be targeted, recognizing the importance of **social equity** in the tiered rates. Within our community, the bulk of the water customers are single-family residential homes. This group was identified as having the greatest opportunity to reduce discretionary water use as compared to the other groups such as multifamily residential, commercial, industrial and institutional customers.

The City analyzed several years of water consumption data in order to categorize typical seasonal water use within the residential customer classification. This enabled identification of logical points for the step increases.

Determination of the amount increase for each step relied upon analysis of the historical water consumption data, while keeping the revenue neutral goal in mind. The amount needed to be large enough to encourage conservation yet not unduly burdensome to our customers.

Sprinkling restrictions, which go into effect May 15 until September 15 of each calendar year, require that all property owners limit sprinkler use between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and only on odd/even days that correspond with the property's address (odd numbered properties are permitted to use sprinklers on odd numbered days and even numbered properties are permitted to use sprinklers on even numbered days).

Furthermore, the installation of smart sensors will prevent sprinklers from running during wet events like rain. Effective May 1, 2013 all newly installed lawn irrigation systems are to be equipped with soil moisture sensors that meet USEPA WaterSense standard.

All of these measures were taken to enhance and strengthen the City's environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and social equity in protecting and preserving Lake Michigan.