

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, January 14, 2015 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, JANUARY 14, 2015  
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:** December 10, 2014

**IV. Business from the Public**

**V. New Business**

- A. Welcome and Introduction of New Commission Members
- B. Review of 2015 Commission Work Plan

**VI. Old Business**

- A. Consideration and Approval of Bird Friendly Building Ordinance Recommendation
- B. Status Report on Environmental Movie Screenings

**VII. Other Business**

- A. Commissioner Comments
- B. Administrative Items

**VIII. Adjournment**

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

**MEETING DATE:** December 10, 2014

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:34 p.m., Chairwoman Coyle called the meeting to order and the Staff Liaison called the roll.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Coyle, Rheinstrom, Wagenius, Sultan, Ross (6:38 p.m.), and Stone

Members Absent: Matthews, Hannick, and Lewittes

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

Staff Present: Staff Liaison Karen Berardi

Also Present: Grace Rink, Quercus Consulting; and Deborah Steimel, Primera Engineering

**MINUTES**

**A. Special Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission – November 9, 2014 and Regular Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission—November 12, 2014**

Commissioner Ross entered at 6:38 p.m.

Commissioner Sultan moved to approve the minutes of a special meeting held on November 9, 2014. Commissioner Wagenius seconded the motion. On a voice vote, Chairwoman Coyle declared that the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Commissioner Sultan commented that the regular meeting minutes needed to be amended under New Business Item A from “50’ setback” to “variation to encroach into the 40’ setback.” Rheinstrom moved to approve the minutes of a regular meeting held on November 12, 2014 as amended. Commissioner Wagenius seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, Chairwoman Coyle declared that the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

**BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Joel Cahn, 26 Lakeview Terrace, objected to the November 12, 2014 minutes as approved

and requested that a commission member make a motion to amend the minutes because Mr. Cahn believes that they do not accurately report his comments. Mr. Cahn read a statement into record, passed out educational material pertaining to coastal management, and requested that the commission stop permitting hard shore protection structures.

Chairwoman Coyle thanked Mr. Cahn for his comments and noted that his presentation materials would be forwarded to the Public Works Engineering Division.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Approval of a Resolution Setting the 2015 Commission Regular Meeting Dates**

Commissioner Wagenius moved to approve the 2015 commission regular meeting dates as recommended. Rheinstrom seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, Chairwoman Coyle declared that the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Status Report on Exterior Lighting Standard Amendments for All Zoning Districts**

Sustainability Consultant Grace Rink, Quercus Consulting, and Deborah Steimel, Primera Engineering, presented on dark sky standards and light pollution ordinances as it pertains to the City's existing code. Rink and Steimel opened discussion to the commission.

Commissioner Rheinstrom commented that the goal should be to improve existing structures with acceptable optimal illumination that comprises both safety and efficacy. Commissioner Sultan commented that it would be beneficial to know what other communities are doing. Councilwoman Stone noted that Fort Sheridan may be a good starting point. Rink also suggested that the downtown business district lighting offers a great opportunity to improve lighting with grants available to consider.

Chairwoman Coyle commented that commercial properties ought to be a second priority at this time. Councilwoman Stone recommended that Police be included in the conversation regarding lighting and safety. Commissioner Ross suggested that code changes be made to build momentum and that the commission look at solutions that will meet multiple objectives. Commissioner Wagenius noted that other public spaces should be considered such as Metra stations and other property owned by government entities. Rink noted that the topic can be discussed at the next Green Alliance meeting in first quarter 2015.

Commissioner Ross suggested that the three priorities should be the downtown business district lighting, lighting at car dealerships and coordination with ComEd on street lights. Councilwoman Stone, Commissioner Ross and Liaison Berardi said they would discuss with ComEd lighting solutions. It was additionally noted that residential properties would not be considered at this time for light pollution, but that education could be provided to residents.

Rink and Steimel noted that the next steps will be to meet with Public Works and Community Development staff to discuss redlined code edits and upgrades to lighting in the downtown business district and Fort Sheridan.

B. Consideration of Bird Friendly Ordinance

Commissioners Sultan and Wagenius presented on the consideration of a bird friendly ordinance based on research conducted. Commissioner Wagenius noted that the Village of Barrington, Illinois, adopted a resolution that encouraged bird friendly designs. Wagenius also noted that the State of Minnesota, City of Toronto, Canada and City of San Francisco, California also have varied levels of bird friendly ordinances, whether voluntary or regulatory.

Chairwoman Coyle suggested the recommendation should be referred to the City Council for commercial and multi-story buildings to regulate bird friendly design.

Commissioner Rheinstrom expressed a concern that this ordinance may deter developers. Commissioner Sultan suggested making a recommendation that is environmentally viable; Sultan supported a mandate for bird friendly designs in commercial and multi-story building, but voluntary for all other structures.

Commissioner Wagenius moved to recommend to City Council an ordinance that requires all commercial and multi-story buildings to follow guidelines set forth by LEED 55 program regarding bird friendly designs. Commissioner Sultan seconded the motion. On a voice vote, Chairwoman Coyle declared that the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

C. Status Report on Environmental Movie Screenings

The commission agreed that the movie screening for City Dark was not well advertised which could have resulted in the low attendance by the public.

Councilwoman Stone noted that the movie screenings should be moved back to the Library and that the City, Park District and Library can all work together on promoting and advertising future movie screenings.

Staff Liaison Berardi noted that a meeting has been scheduled between the City, Park District and Library to discuss joint movie screenings that would take place at the Library. The next movie screening is suggested to take place in March and be focused on water conservation. The topic will be included in the January agenda for further discussion.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Rheinstrom commented he was upset to hear of the temporary closing of the electronics recycling drop-off site. Councilwoman Stone presented on House Bill 4042 which has affected SWALCO's electronics recycling program. She noted that the SWALCO board will be meeting on December 18, 2014 to discuss the future of the program. Staff Liaison Berardi commented that any update to the drop-off site operation would be provided through the City's communication channels.

B. Administrative Items

There were no administrative items this evening.

C. Farewell to Outgoing Commissioner Tom Sultan

Chairwoman Coyle read a proclamation for outgoing commissioner Tom Sultan recognizing him for his service to the commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairwoman Coyle adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Berardi, Assistant to the City Manager

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MINUTES APPROVED BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON

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



# Memorandum

To: Members of the Natural Resources Commission

From: Karen Berardi, Assistant to the City Manager

Date: January 9, 2015

Re: Agenda Items for the January 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission

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## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. Welcome and Introduction of New Commission Members**

The commission will welcome its new commissioner, student commissioners, and Park District representative.

### **B. Review of 2015 Commission Work Plan**

The commission will review the 2015 Work Plan and make necessary plans to incorporate these projects into the commission schedule. The work plan is attached.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **A. Consideration and Approval of Bird Friendly Building Ordinance Recommendation**

Attached is a memorandum depicting the commission's recommendation to City Council regarding the bird friendly building ordinance. Commission approval is sought to forward the recommendation.

### **C. Status Report on Environmental Movie Screenings**

In coordination with the Park District and Public Library, a movie focused on water conservation and protecting our natural resources of Lake Michigan is proposed in March 2015, in conjunction with World Water Day on March 22, 2015. Some recommended films include : [Watermark](#), [Flow](#) and [The Marion Lake Story](#).

Below are short synopses of each film:

**Watermark:** (from its website)

*Watermark is a feature documentary film that brings together diverse stories from around the globe about our relationship with water: how we are drawn to it, what we learn from it, how we use it and the consequences of that use. We see massive floating abalone farms off China's Fujian coast and the construction site of the biggest arch dam in the world – the Xiluodu, six times the size of the Hoover. We visit the barren desert delta where the mighty Colorado River no longer reaches the ocean, and the water-intensive leather tanneries of Dhaka.*

**Flow:** (from its website)

*Flow builds a case against the growing privatization of the world's dwindling fresh water supply with an unflinching focus on politics, pollution, human rights, and the emergence of a domineering world water cartel. Interviews with scientists and activists intelligently reveal the rapidly building crisis, at both the global and human scale, and the film introduces many of the governmental and corporate culprits behind the water grab, while begging the question "CAN ANYONE REALLY OWN WATER?" Beyond identifying the problem, FLOW also gives viewers a look at the people and institutions providing practical solutions to the water crisis and those developing new technologies, which are fast becoming blueprints for a successful global and economic turnaround.*

**The Marion Lake Story:** (from its website)

*The Marion Lake Story: Defeating the Mighty Phragmite tells a compelling tale of an ecological crisis: the complete degradation — and eventual restoration — of an 18-acre lake on the east end of Long Island NY that provides crucial habitat for migrating birds, rare turtles and other flora and fauna but is being choked to death by the invasive reed, the australis phragmite.*

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 2015 Commission Work Plan
- Bird Friendly Building Ordinance Recommendation

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ACTION PLAN 2015**

Action #	ACTION ITEM	TASK	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	First Quarter 2015	Second Quarter 2015	Third Quarter 2015	Fourth Quarter 2015
<b>2015 WORK PLAN PROPOSED FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION</b>							
1	Education & Outreach regarding 2014 Steep Slope Landscape Best Practices Brochure	Provide Public Outreach on Steep Slope BMP	Hannick, Park District & City Staff	√	√		
2	Make Policy Recommendations to Improve Recycling Output Community-Wide	Evaluate Recycling & Composting Services as part of the 2015 Waste Hauling Agreement	Coyle, Wagenius & Staff	√	√	√	
		Expand Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling by Updating City's Current Mandate	Mathews, Rheinstrom & Staff		√	√	
		Evaluate the Feasibility of Initiating a Shoe Recycling Program in Partnership with SWALCO	Coyle & Staff		√	√	
3	Make Policy Recommendations to Improve Energy Efficiency Community - Wide	Evaluate Energy Efficiency & Renewables as part of the 2015 Electric Aggregation Agreement	Wagenius, Rheinstrom & Staff	√	√		
		Evaluate & Make Recommendations to Remove Obstacles to Renewable Energy in the City's Building & Zoning Codes	Wagenius, Rheinstrom & Staff			√	√
4	Improving Stormwater Management and Address Water Pollution	Provide Recommendations on Stormwater Best Management Practices, Rain Garden Incentives and Permeable Paving	Hannick & Staff			√	√
		Explore Building Code Amendments for Downspout Disconnection	Mathews & Staff			√	√
		Evaluate the Feasibility of a Coal Tar Ban Community-Wide	Wagenius & Staff			√	√
5	Follow-up on Exterior Lighting Standard Analysis for All Zoning Districts	Follow-up on 2014 Recommendations, Provide Public Outreach As Necessary	Ross	√			
6	Grant Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment	Accept & Consider Nominations and Grant Award	Entire Commission & Staff				√
7	Organize & Host Environmental Movie Series	Contact Library & Park District to Establish Event Dates	Staff				
		Acquire License to Screen Film	Staff				
		Promote Film Screenings	Staff				
8	Participate in North Shore Environmental Commissioners Group	Attend Meetings & Give Input	Commission Chair	ONGOING BASIS			
9	Assist in the Accomplishment of Sustainability Plan Initiatives	Establish Implementation Plan	Entire Commission & Staff	ONGOING BASIS			
10	Review & Recommend on Variations and Beach Structure Permit Applications	Forward Findings of Fact to ZBA & City Council	Entire Commission & Staff	ONGOING BASIS			
		Conduct Refresher on Steep Slope & Beach Permits	Entire Commission & Staff	√			
		Conduct Educational Workshop on Coastal Management As Needed	Entire Commission & Staff	AS NEEDED			
Pink Highlighted Cell = Task Accomplished							
	FOR 2016:						

# MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** January 9, 2015

**To:** Highland Park City Council

**From:** Natural Resources Commission  
Karen Berardi, NRC Staff Liaison

**Subject:** Bird Friendly Building Ordinance Recommendation

On October 10, 2014, the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) considered a request initiated by Mr. Donnie Dann to extend the current ordinance to include all commercial and multi-family buildings in excess of 5,000 square feet. Mr. Dann noted that LEED Credit 55 be considered as the guidelines to developing these ordinance changes. Mr. Dann presented that collisions with glass is the single biggest known killer of birds in the United States. During his presentation, it was noted that the cost of these various designs were cost-neutral when developing new buildings. The existing bird friendly building construction requirements can be found in Chapter 170, Section 105 which passed on February 11, 2011.

On November 12, 2014 and again on December 10, 2014, the NRC discussed an extension of the current ordinance as requested by Mr. Dann and further researched by two NRC commissioners. It was noted that several municipalities and states have enacted varied levels of bird friendly design ordinances, whether voluntary or regulatory. Support of an extension of the current ordinance was given based on the fatality of birds colliding with glass as well as the apparent cost neutrality of incorporating these designs into new buildings.

On December 20, 2014, the NRC passed a motion (5-0) recommending that City Council approve an ordinance that requires all commercial and multi-story buildings to follow guidelines set forth by LEED 55 program regarding bird friendly designs.

**Attachments:**

October 8, 2014 NRC Minutes  
November 12, 2014 NRC Minutes  
December 10, 2014 NRC Minutes  
Supporting Research Documents