

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, November 9, 2016 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, November 9, 2016
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: October 19, 2016

IV. Business from the Public

V. Old Business

- (a) Discussion for 2017 Work Plan
 - i. Discussion of Potential Collaboration between NRC and Local Schools in 2017
 - ii. Updates on Budget Requests for 2017 Work Plan
 - iii. Finalizing of 2017 Work Plan
- (b) Commissioner Updates and Discussion for On-Going 2016 Work Plan Items
 - i. Updates on Education & Outreach for Steep Slope Issues (Q1/Q3)
 - i. Status of Ravine Brochure Translation Project
 - ii. Improving Storm Water Management and Addressing Water Pollution
 - i. Recommendation for Coal Tar Sealant Ban
 - iii. Updates on Recycling Output Community-Wide
 - iv. Update on Efforts Toward City Anti-Idling Policy (Q3/Q4)
- (c) Update on Bird-Friendly Design Efforts

VI. New Business

- (a) Consideration of Nominations – Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment

VII. Other Business

- (a) Commissioner Comments
- (b) Administrative Items

VIII. Adjournment

Posted in City Hall on November 3, 2016

PLEASE RECYCLE



Department of Community Development
1150 Half Day Road
Highland Park, Illinois 60035
847.432-0867
cityhpil.com

Date: November 8, 2016
To: Natural Resources Commission
From: Eric Olson, Planner II
Department of Community Development
Subject: **NRC Meeting – November 9, 2016
Agenda Summary and Informational Document**

Please note that **the November 2016 NRC meeting will be held in the Mayor’s Conference room on the second floor of City Hall, rather than the Pre-Session room that is typically used for NRC meetings.** There are several events occurring in City Hall at one time on November 9, 2016, which necessitated the change of meeting rooms.

A) Discussion for 2017 Work Plan

- Discussion of Potential Collaboration between NRC and Local Schools in 2017
 - During the previous NRC meeting, the group discussed exploring how the Natural Resources Commission might interact with local schools on environmental issues and projects.
 - Commissioner LaCosse contacted Susan Ozawa, who is the Gifted & Talented teacher at Braeside School and serves as the the faculty advisor of the school’s “Go Green” environmental awareness team. Ms. Ozawa will be attending the November 9th meeting to discuss activities that Braeside School students have done, as relates to the environment, find out what the Natural Resources Commission does, and discuss areas of potential collaboration on projects.
- Updates on Budget Requests for 2017 Work Plan
 - Staff have contacted the Assistant City Manager, Rob Sabo, to discuss potential costs for Earth Day programming considered for 2017 so that they may be incorporated into the budget. However, no cost information is available at this time.
 - During the Council’s budget deliberation process, the minute taker originally contemplated for the 2017 budget year was removed from the budget.

B) Commissioner Updates and Discussion for On-Going 2016 Work Plan Items

- Updates on Education & Outreach for Steep Slope Issues (Q1/Q3)

- No update on the ravine brochure translation is available as of the writing of this memorandum, but additional information may be available during the meeting.
- Improving Storm Water Management and Addressing Water Pollution
 - The group has continued revision of the Coal Tar Sealant ban recommendation to City Council. The most recent draft of the document (November 7, 2016) is included in the meeting packet.
- Updates on Recycling Output Community-Wide
 - No new data is available on community recycling and waste output at this time, but additional information may be available during the meeting.
- Update on Efforts Toward City Anti-Idling Policy (Q3/Q4)
 - No new information is currently available on anti-idling efforts, but additional information may be available during the meeting.
- Update on Bird-Friendly Design Efforts
 - The Department of Community Development will be working with the City Manager's office to develop a guideline/educational document on bird-friendly design, based on the information gained through past NRC deliberation and meetings of the Bird-Friendly task force convened during 2016.
 - Additional development projects in the community are exploring the potential inclusion of bird-friendly design.

C) Consideration of Nominations – Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment

- Staff has received one nomination for the Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment. The nomination is for the business, Green Panda, located at 376 Park Avenue. A copy of the nomination materials are included in the meeting packet.

D) Event Reminder – PDHP Ravine Education Program – November 15, 2016

- The PDHP is holding a Ravine Symposium on Tuesday, November 15th at the Recreation Center, and the NRC has been invited to participate.
 - The purpose of the event is to expose students to local experts that have a connection to the ravines. The Natural Areas Program conducts a Ravine Education Program with the Environmental Science students at Highland Park High School every year.
 - The programming is based on 4 visits to Rosewood, with each visit focusing on a different aspect of these dynamic systems. The ravine symposium is a new element being added to the program. We are
 - The symposium will begin at 9am and end by 2pm.
 - There will be 4 presentation sessions, each 40 minutes in length that the students will rotate through.



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

MEETING DATE: October 19, 2016

MEETING LOCATION: Pre-Session Conference Room – Highland Park City Hall
1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:30 p.m., Chairman Ross called the meeting to order and Eric Olson called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Nichols, Yates, LaCosse, Coyle, Ross (C)

Members Absent: Pagoria, Wagenius (VC)

Chairman Ross declared that there was a quorum of the Commission present.

Staff Present: Eric Olson, Planner

Also Present: Kim Stone, City Council Liaison
Garren Kalter, Student Representative
Amalia Schwartz, Part District Representative

MINUTES

During consideration of the September 14, 2016 meeting minutes, Chairman Ross identified corrections related to air quality and Council timing, and discussion of lead water service lines. Commissioner Coyle then moved to approve the minutes for the September 14, 2016 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission, with the corrections noted by the Chairman. Commissioner LaCosse seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the minutes were approved as amended.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Ross stated he would address some new business on the agenda prior to continuing with discussion of old business.

Mayoral Guidance on 2016 Work Plan

He then discussed his conversation with the Mayor, which included current 2016 work plan activities and areas of focus for the 2017 work plan. He then said that the Mayor discussed increased visibility for sustainability and suggested working with the local schools, use of social media, and an Earth Day event. The two also discussed the Greenest Region Compact, as well as looking to the City's sustainability plan for work plan ideas and using the budget process to get funds to advance objectives. Commissioner LaCosse stated that is a good idea for the City to participate in Earth Day programming and that there would be great value in leveraging local schools.

Commissioner Coyle stated the work done by the NRC and its predecessor commissions has changed over the years, and that the policy work being done today is similar to how it was many years ago. She stated that the current NRC work successfully leverages the group's expertise and the approach allows the group to affect greater change than if they were only involved in educational initiatives. She is very proud of the work being done by the NRC and if the focus will shift toward more educational work, then then NRC should be very considered in its approach and the projects it takes on.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Updates and Discussion for On-Going 2016 Work Plan Items

Updates on Education & Outreach for Steep Slope Issues (Q1/Q3)

Commissioner Nichols stated that she is working with someone to translate the ravine brochure into Spanish and that she anticipates having something to provide in November. Planner Olson then discussed the City's recent branding initiative, noting that outreach documents translated into different languages should be visually similar and that the same established brochure design should be maintained rather than reworked for branding purposes. Councilwoman Stone stated that she would support that approach to the document design.

Updates on Recycling Output Community-Wide

Councilwoman Stone provided updated waste and recycling data from SWALCO and noted that there was a very large jump in the May data due to the spring clean-up event. The group then discussed the time and extent of dumping of waste materials at the curbside during that period. Councilwoman Stone then noted that abuse of the program may lead to changes and that there has been some consideration of the elimination of "Big Trash Day", adding that the spring trash events may put the City above the estimated waste volumes for the year. Commissioner Coyle stated that some people appear to forget to recycle during the Big Trash Day event, and Chairman Ross stated that Lakeshore Recycling has facilities to separate co-mingled waste for recycling purposes.

Councilwoman Stone then stated that there is no data on shoe recycling at this time but then presented data on clothing and textile recycling. She then stated that she would like to see increased participation in the organics programs, adding that Highwood will be joining and that the NRC might be able to work on outreach.

Chairman Ross asked whether the data reflects residential or commercial properties. Councilwoman Stone stated that it is residential, but commercial data may be available at the next quarterly meeting of SWALCO.

Commissioner Coyle asked whether the community is trending up or down for textile recycling. Councilwoman Stone stated that the community is trending upward.

Improving Storm Water Management and Addressing Water Pollution

Councilwoman Stone stated that she has been concerned about this project in light of a transition from more policy-based work to educational work. She stated that the recommendation to ban coal tar sealants, when complete, will be presented to the Council at a Committee of the Whole meeting and that there appears to be support. She also stated that she discussed the issue with a state legislator who is interested in implementing a state-level ban and feels that local action would be helpful in the cause.

Commissioner LaCrosse stated that the draft recommendation is good and Chairman Ross agreed but added that the document still needs some editing. Commissioner Coyle stated that the substance and tone is spot on. The group then discussed revisions to the draft recommendation document. Councilwoman Stone and Chairman Ross stated that the group is ideally aiming for the November 14th City Council meeting.

Update on Efforts toward City Anti-Idling Policy (Q3/Q4)

No updates available during the meeting.

Update on Community Garden Efforts (Q1)

Commissioner Yates stated that she has been working with Park District Representative Schwartz to determine demand for community gardening opportunities in Highland Park. Ms. Schwartz stated that she has discussed

the issue with other Park District staff, and that there has been a positive program feedback and that there are 12 garden plots with three on the waiting list. Most participants are novice gardeners and a lot of maintenance is required by Park District staff. The same number of plots will be available in 2017, but the Park District is open to potential expansion if demand is higher in the future.

Councilwoman Stone asked whether people are able to keep their plots from year to year. Commissioner Yates stated that the program restarts each year so participants must reapply. Commissioner LaCrosse then stated that he has researched the Highland Park Garden Club and found out that the group no longer exists and that the North Shore Garden Club is the only garden club still active in the area.

Update on Lighting Code Amendments

No updates available during the meeting.

B. Status Update – Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment

Planner Olson stated that he has not yet received any nominations for the 2016 environmental awards. He noted that he posted nomination on the City's website and news list and was contacted by a local reporter that wrote a short newspaper article that would help to increase awareness. If any are submitted, they will be included in the November 2016 meeting packet for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on Bird-Friendly Design Efforts

Planner Olson discussed the inclusion of bird-friendly design into a guidance document for developers going through the planned development process that have to provide various forms of public benefit to the community. He stated that a development currently going through the approval process, a self-storage facility within the Briaridge Business District, is offering to use bird-friendly glass in its building façade.

Councilwoman Stone stated that she had discussed recent educational materials developed by the City with Vice Chair Wagenius and that the Vice Chair suggested that the photo on the second page of the brochure should be changed, as it was a bad example of bird-friendly design. She then discussed the bird-friendly design deliberations occurring at the Council level and elaborated on the public benefit guidance list. She noted that materials should be referencing bird friendly design, rather than just bird friendly glass.

B. Discussion for 2017 Work Plan Development

Chairman Ross and Planner Olson discussed the 2017 commission work plan and stated that the format may change if the NRC chooses to incorporate objectives from the environmental frameworks, such as SolSmart and GRC2, which were discussed during previous meetings.

Councilwoman Stone asked whether the group should keep the environmental film series or whether it should be transformed into the Earth Day programming that had been previously discussed. Commissioner Coyle then asked how the group should approach appropriations for such an event given the cost to the programming is currently unknown. Planner Olson stated that a number will need to be put into the budget now, but if the expected costs exceed the budgeted amount then a budget amendment could be explored during next year once more cost clarity is achieved. Councilwoman Stone stated that the Assistant City Manager, Rob Sabo, developed a similar event in Northbrook and that he is interested in organizing the event. The Chairman stated that the Mayor would be looking to the NRC to help develop the programming for the event.

Commissioner Coyle stated that many of the projects that are currently underway could somehow be incorporated into the Earth Day programming, particularly with respect to water issues. Planner Olson asked whether the 2017 work plan would have a strong water theme, and the Chairman stated that there will still be several areas of focus, adding that there is a great deal that could be done for air quality than had been done to date. Commission Nichols stated that a lot is being done regionally with respect to air quality so the timing is good.

Planner Olson then discussed the addition of a minutes-taker to the budget, which if approved, would allow staff more flexibility to participate in Commission discussions.

Councilwoman Stone then discussed recasting the environmental film series on the work plan to be broader.

The group then discussed efforts to align the NRC work plan with the City's sustainability plan and the organizational challenges to doing so.

Chairman Ross discussed the City's sustainability plan and noted that there may be an opportunity to update the plan. He then stated that the Steep Slope line item could be removed from the work plan since the group's work is largely complete and it is not expected that further work will be needed in 2017.

The group then discussed reframing the work plan item related to recycling, modifying it to be more about monitoring waste, composting, and recycling output and evaluating outreach efforts. Councilwoman Stone discussed the communications capacity of the City Manager's Office.

Chairman Ross stated that he is very interested in energy efficiency and that he is interested in investigating the effectiveness of the City in being more energy efficient. Commissioner Coyle noted that this may ultimately result in policy recommendations, but that it is not necessary to specifically say that the group will be making policy recommendations in the work plan.

Commissioner Coyle stated that she needs to depart and wanted to know if she could give someone her proxy vote on the work plan. Planner Olson stated that a vote would be necessary and Chairman Ross stated that the group could vote before she goes. Commissioner Coyle then stated that she is very proud of the work the Commission has been doing.

The group then discussed budget requests, and noted that the number should be increased slightly to account for unknown costs associated with potential Earth Day planning. Planner Olson stated that it would be ideal to have a relatively close number but that a budget amendment could be pursued if needed.

Commissioner Coyle then moved to approve the 2017 NRC work plan and budgetary request, subject to the modifications discussed during the meeting. Commissioner Nichols seconded the motion.

On a voice vote the Chairman declared the motion passed unanimously.

At 7:56pm, Commissioner Coyle departed the meeting.

Chairman Ross then asked Park District Representative Schwartz whether there is anything the Park District wants help with or would like to collaborate on. Ms. Schwartz stated that she will report back with next year's objectives and will be able to discuss the Greenprint plan.

C. Consideration of 2017 NRC Meeting Date Resolution

Chairman Ross asked whether the second Wednesday meeting scheduling is working for everyone on the Commission. The group indicated that they are. Planner Olson then discussed the meeting dates for 2017, noting that meetings would not be held when they conflict with holidays. The group may reschedule those dates as special meetings at that time.

Commissioner LaCrosse then moved to approve the 2017 meeting date resolution for the Natural Resources Commission. Commissioner Yates seconded. On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried unanimously and the resolution was approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Comments/Administrative Items

Councilwoman Stone discussed the recent walk audit and summit. Park District Representative Schwartz stated that she was in attendance and that it was a very useful event. The two then discussed a “pop-up” initiative and Councilwoman Stone stated that a pop-up event was held in Niles, IL, which included speed tables, medians, crosswalks, and other improvements, and noted that students participated.

Commissioner LaCosse stated that Scouting has decreased in Highland Park and discussed the value of scouting to the community. He then added that 4-H would also be very valuable for the community.

Chairman Ross provided additional information from his conversation with the Mayor, stating that the Mayor suggested the NRC provide more presentations to the City Council. Councilwoman Stone stated that council members used to regularly present commission business to their colleagues. The group then discussed the Green Alliance, including meeting frequency and potential participation. Councilwoman Stone added that the Highland Park Hospital can now recycle due to the efforts of the Green Alliance. Chairman Ross then stated that Mayor would like to see increased collaboration with other City commissions and increased connection with School District 112 on environmental and earth science issues.

Chairman Ross stated that he would like to discuss the use of social media next month and requested that a representative from the City Manager’s Office attend the next meeting.

Commissioner LaCosse stated that he would reach out to District 112 contacts and see if he could get the groups to meet and discuss opportunities to collaborate. Chairman Ross stated he would welcome their attendance at an NRC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner LaCosse motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Yates seconded the motion. Chairman Ross adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Olson, Planner II

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON _____

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

COMMISSION: Natural Resources Commission



CY2017 COMMISSION WORKPLAN SUBMITTAL

Jurisdiction and Purpose:

The mission of the Natural Resources Commission is to preserve, enhance, manage and protect the City's environment and natural resources; provide recommendations on environmental and natural resource policies, regulations, ordinances, plans and variation requests; and, engage the public on these matters.

<u>2017 Workplan Objectives</u>	<u>Associated Funding Request</u>
Monitor waste, composting, and recycling output community-wide and evaluate relative to Sustainability Plan goals	\$0
Increase energy efficiency and increase the use of alternative energies community-wide	\$0
Improve storm water management and address water pollution	\$0
Explore policy recommendations to improve the air quality community-wide	\$0
Co-Sponsor Outreach Events with Park District and Library Including But Not Limited To Environmental Films, Earth Day Event, and other Environmental Programming	\$2,000
Assist in the Accomplishment of Sustainability Plan Initiatives	\$0
Review & Recommend on Steep Slope Variations and Beach Structure Permit Applications	\$0
Grant Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park environment	\$0

<u>Commission Operating Expense Requests</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Education – Environmental Film Series	\$2,000
Commission Meetings - Meals	\$1,300

2017 TOTAL REQUEST:	\$3,300
2016 BUDGET:	\$2,500

<u>2016 Workplan Objectives</u>	<u>Status</u>
Provide education and outreach to the public regarding 2014 Steep Slope Landscape Best Practices brochure and code amendments	On-Going
Make policy recommendations to improve recycling output community-wide	On-Going
Make policy recommendations to improve energy efficiency community-wide	On-Going
Improve stormwater management and address water pollution	On-Going
Make policy recommendations to improve the air quality community-wide	On-Going
Co-sponsor Environmental Movie Series with Park District and Library	Completed for 2016
Assist in the Accomplishment of Sustainability Plan Initiatives	On-Going
Review & Recommend on Steep Slope Variations and Beach Structure Permit Applications	On-Going
Grant Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park environment	On-Going
Provide education and outreach to the public regarding 2014 Steep Slope Landscape Best Practices brochure and code amendments	On-Going

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2016 Additional Accomplishments

Published informational articles in Highlander
Held second annual Highland Park Bike-Walk Fair

I certify that the Commission approved this workplan request by a vote of _____ on the date of _____ for CY2017:

Commission Chair

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mayor Nancy R. Rotering
Councilman Anthony E. Blumberg
Councilman Paul Frank
Councilman Michelle Holleman
Councilman Daniel A. Kaufman
Councilman Alyssa Knobel
Councilwoman Kim Stone

Re: Natural Resources Commission Water Stewardship Initiative: Coal Tar Recommendations

Dear Mayor Rotering and members of the City Council:

As part of its 2015 work plan, the NRC investigated ways to improve water quality in the City and Lake Michigan. In our research we found that: 1) that driveway sealants are widespread pollutants of water and major health threats, 2) that homeowners and businesses can easily use similar products without coal tar, and 3) that many municipalities and states have banned coal tar products. The City of Highland Park understands that ponds, streams, and Lake Michigan are natural assets that enhance our environmental, recreational, cultural and economic resources and contribute to the general health and welfare of our community. Highland Park is also a signatory to the Greenest Region 2 Compact (GRC2) of the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus. The GRC2 framework recognizes that coal tar sealants should not be used in order to protect our water quality.

The use of sealers on asphalt driveways is a common practice. Products made with coal tar or with asphalt dominate the market, but coal tar products contain 1000s of times more Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) than asphalt-based products. Other products, such as gilsonite and acrylic, contain little to no PAHs.¹

PAHs are unhealthy. Exposure to PAHs causes cancer, low IQ & childhood asthma, and is associated with behavioral problems in children. PAHs are group of organic chemicals formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil, gas, or other organic substances. PAHs are present in coal-tar and evidence shows they are harmful to humans, fish, and other aquatic life.²

Through regular use, PAHs in coal tar sealcoat wear off and turn into dust. The dust is blown, washed, or tracked into soil, storm water ponds, streams, lakes, and nearby houses. Some chemicals in coal tar sealcoat volatilize into the air after application.³ We have attached a fact sheet published in April 2016 by the U.S. Geological Survey, representing the most up-to-date science on coal tar sealants (Attachment A). Scientific studies on the use of driveway sealers have demonstrated a clear relationship between storm water runoff, human health, and environmental degradation.

¹ <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater-great-lakes-coal-tar-sealcoat-pah-reduction>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polycyclic_aromatic_hydrocarbon

³ <http://tx.usgs.gov/sealcoat.html>

Given concern for health and water, many states and municipalities have chosen to ban coal tar sealant from their communities. As of July 2016, Minnesota, Washington State, Washington DC and dozens of municipalities have banned coal tar sealants.⁴ Winnetka and South Barrington are two nearby communities that value clean water and healthy children and have therefore banned coal tar sealants in their communities.

On November 10, 2015, the NRC unanimously recommended that City Council develop an ordinance prohibiting the sale and application of coal tar sealants within the City.⁵ In drafting the ordinance, the NRC reviewed Winnetka's ordinance, ordinances drafted by the Minnesota League of Cities, and others to see how communities protect their environment. Winnetka enacted a ban on coal tar and requires a license for applicators (See Attachments B & C).

The NRC has drafted proposed language for a coal tar sealant ban ordinance based on existing Highland Park Code; specifically, the sections that ban phosphorous fertilizer and require licensing of landscape and lawn care professionals. The language we propose has three parts:

1. prohibit use of coal tar products
 - A) on public property and
 - B) on private property;
2. prohibit sale of coal tar products; and
3. require license of applicators.

Attachment D details these objectives and our recommended changes to the code. The NRC recommends that Highland Park prohibit coal tar sealants on private property, just as it prohibits loose aggregate (93.236 Loose Aggregate Material Prohibited). The NRC recommends that Highland Park require licensing of applicators, as does Winnetka. To accomplish these goals, we drafted a new chapter based on Highland Park's Chapter 102 "Landscape and Lawn Care Professionals" that incorporates the reporting requirements from Winnetka.

Thank you for your consideration. As always, the NRC is available for any further assistance with this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Wagenius, NRC Vice Chairman
Brent Ross, NRC Chairman

Cc: Ghida Neukirch, City Manager
Eric Olson, Liaison to NRC

Attachments:

A. USGS fact sheet published in April 2016, representing the most up-to-date science on coal tar sealants <fs20163017.pdf>

⁴ USGS fact sheet published in April 2016, representing the most up-to-date science on coal tar sealants <fs20163017.pdf>

⁵ The City of Highland Park does not use any sealants.

B. Winnetka's ordinances.

C. The application form for a Winnetka pavement sealer applicator's license.

D. Proposed changes to Highland Park City Code <Proposed Coal Tar Product ban code changes clean.docx>

DRAFT

Nomination Form

Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment

1. Name of Resident or Business Nominated*: GREEN PANDA

Nominee's Address: 600 ELM PLACE

Nominee's Home Phone Number: 847.433.0590

2. Name of Person Submitting Nomination: JENNIFER DOTSON

Nominator's Address: 376 PARK AVENUE

Nominator's Home Phone Number: 847.681.8595

3. Please provide a detailed description of the reasons why the Highland Park resident and/or business nominated should be selected for the Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment. Please address the breadth, scope and significance of the nominee's service and/or accomplishments. Please include any supporting material that will help the Commissioners make their decision, including the following information:

(A) Description of the service or accomplishment meriting the award;

(B) Where the service was performed;

(C) Date or dates of the service or accomplishment;

(D) Title of the person, if applicable, and if the service or accomplishment was a part of the person's job responsibility (if such is the case, the service or accomplishment must exceed what is normally required of the job); and,

(E) An understanding of how the City's environment benefited from the action of the person and/or business

To request the Commission's consideration of a nomination, a fully completed nomination form must be submitted by:

Please submit complete nomination forms to the attention of Eric Olson, City Planner, by email at eolson@cityhpil.com or by mail to:

**Friday, November 4, 2016 at
4:00 p.m.**

Eric Olson, City Planner
1150 Half Day Road
Highland Park, IL 60035
Phone: (847) 926-1853
Fax: (847) 432-0964

* Please note that elected and appointed City of Highland Park officials are not eligible for the Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment.

Nomination for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment

Green Panda Restaurant, located at 600 Elm Place, announced November 1, 2016 to its customers that effective January 1, 2017 it will no longer offer single-use plastic bags. Delivery and carry-out service customers will be encouraged to provide their own reusable bags.

According to the Center for Biological Diversity website¹,

- Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year which require 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture.
- The average American family takes home almost 1,500 plastic shopping bags each year.
- Plastic bags are used for an average of twelve minutes.
- Yet it takes 500 or more years for a plastic bag to degrade and unfortunately, plastic bags don't break down completely but instead photo-degrade, becoming microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment.

Green Panda owner Brian Batt hopes to inspire the community to make greener choices. Remembering to take reusable bags with you when you shop or dine is a simple step towards our greener future.

I, therefore, nominate Green Panda for Meritorious Service to the Environment for taking this major step in reducing our communities carbon footprint and encouraging reusable bags.

P.S. Former Natural Resources Student Commissioner Miranda Dotson is the hostess at Green Panda Restaurant and suggested this forward action.

¹ http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/population_and_sustainability/expect_more_bag_less/facts.html