

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, June 15, 2011 at 1707 St. John's 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, JUNE 15, 2011
1707 ST. JOHN'S AVENUE
HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS
6:30 P.M.

MEETING AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Minutes: May 11, 2011

IV. Business from the Public

V. New Business

- A. Reminder of Ravine Cleanup Event Co-Sponsored by the Commission and the Park District on June 18th

VI. Old Business

- A. Discussion of July 4th Event Planning
- B. Update on the Commission's Consideration of a Nomination for the Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment
- C. Status Report on the Environmental Commission's Plastic Bag Recommendations
- D. Status Report on the Green Team

VII. Other Business

- A. Commissioner Comments
- B. City Council Liaison Comments
- C. Administrative Items

VIII. Adjournment

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

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May 11, 2011

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

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:30 p.m., Chairman Bogot called the meeting to order and the Staff Liaison called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Bogot, Compher, Dennison, Friedman, Hill, Matthews, Sultan, Brint, Meyer and Mandel

Members Absent: Himmelfarb

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

Staff Present: Staff Liaison Barbara Cates and Technical Advisor Michael Bernardi

Also Present: None

MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission—April 13, 2011

Commissioner Matthews moved approval of the presented minutes of the regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, Chairman Bogot declared that the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

B. Special Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission—May 1, 2011

Commissioner Sultan noted that Student Representative Brint was present at the Special Meeting and that the minutes should be amended to reflect his attendance; Commissioner Sultan then moved approval of the amended minutes of the special meeting of the Natural Resources Commission held on Sunday, May 1, 2011. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, Chairman Bogot declared that the motion passed 5-0-2, with Commissioners Compher and Friedman abstaining due to their absence at the special meeting on May 1, 2011.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

No business from the public was brought to the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of a Nomination for the Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment

Chairman Bogot presented an overview of this Item, discussing the process for soliciting nominations for the award. Councilman Mandel suggested that future nominations could be formulated by a small Commission working group based on community observations. Commissioners Dennison and Friedman volunteered to participate in a working group for nominations in the fall.

Student Representative Brint joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The Commission discussed the submitted application. Commissioner Dennison moved to postpone the Commission's consideration of the nomination for the Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment to a date uncertain. Commissioner Matthews seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, Chairman Bogot declared that the motion unanimously passed 7-0.

B. Discussion of July 4th Event Planning

Chairman Bogot presented an overview of this Item. Chairman Bogot volunteered to bring a tent for the event. Park District Representative Meyer volunteered to secure tables and chairs and to modify the existing booth banner. Staff Liaison Cates volunteered to provide informational handouts, make posters and look into City-owned easels that can be loaned for the event. Commissioner Compher volunteered to provide EPA handouts and educational material. Commissioner Matthews volunteered to provide a rain garden demonstration. Chairman Bogot, Commissioners Dennison and Friedman and Student Representative Brint volunteered to staff the booth. Student Representative Brint volunteered to look into opportunities for student involvement. Commissioner Matthews suggested that the Commission could advertise the Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment at the event. Commissioner Matthews also suggested providing a page with web links to the City's available environmental education materials. Commissioner Compher suggested that the polystyrene recycling program should be promoted. Chairman Bogot will send an email to the Commission to confirm volunteers. Chairman Bogot and Staff Liaison Cates will look into the possibility of driving a car in the July 4th parade.

Commissioner Matthews moved to use Commission funds to purchase a compost bin and how-to manual to raffle at the event. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, Chairman Bogot declared that the motion unanimously passed 7-0. Chairman Bogot and Staff Liaison Cates volunteered to coordinate the purchase. Chairman Bogot volunteered to draft a handout with composting information for dissemination at the

event.

C. Report on North Shore Commissioners Meeting

Chairman Bogot presented an overview of this Item, noting that Commissioners from approximately 6 to 7 neighboring North Shore communities meet to discuss environmental initiatives. The North Shore Commissioners group recently met and asked each participating community to submit a list of environmental issues that may be jointly pursued and/or addressed by the group as a whole.

Commissioners submitted the following ideas for consideration: requirements for plastic bag (film) recycling receptacles in establishments greater than 10,000 sq. ft., water quality and the use of phosphorous, bag taxation at the point of purchase, and energy benchmarks for municipal buildings. Chairman Bogot noted that he and Commissioner Himmelfarb will forward the ideas to the North Shore Commissioners group and report back.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Status Report on the Green Team

Chairman Bogot noted that, in Commissioner Himmelfarb's absence, the item will be tabled.

Student Representative Brint left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

B. Reminder of Chicago River Day Cleanup Event on May 14, 2011

Commissioner Matthews presented an overview of this Item, noted that event logistics were organized, and invited Commission members to participate.

C. Status Report on Adopt-a-Beach Cleanup Event

Commissioner Matthews noted that he will coordinate the Commission's participation at the September Adopt-a-Beach event with League of Women Voters representative Marjie Ettlinger.

D. Reminder of HP Library/NRC/LWV-Sponsored Movie Screening on May 22 and Status Report on Potential Movie Titles for the 2011 Movie Series

Commissioner Dennison reported that *Blue Gold: Water Wars* will be screened at the Highland Park Library on May 22nd. Dennison reported that the Library does not screen films during summer months, and that she is in the process of securing a fall date to show the film *Dirt*. Dennison will report back once arrangements have been made.

E. Status Report on the Environmental Commission Plastic Bag Ordinance Recommendations

Councilman Mandel reported that he had sent a copy of the 2009 Ordinance concerning plastic bag recycling receptacles to the City Manager for review in the City's preparation of

an Ordinance to require plastic bag (film) recycling receptacles in establishments greater than 10,000 sq. ft. Councilman Mandel requested that staff work with Walter Willis and include the Natural Resources Commission in the policy-drafting process. Mandel noted the importance of identifying existing establishments in the City greater than 10,000 sq. ft.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Mandel discussed the success of the polystyrene recycling program, noting that a promotional flyer was distributed to area restaurants and that a new sign near the recycling facility on Half Day Road has been posted to draw attention. Mandel asked staff to follow up with the City Manager’s Office to determine the possibility of hosting a quarterly Saturday Extravaganza event.

Chairman Bogot discussed a ravine cleanup workday event to be held by the Park District of Highland Park at Moraine Park on June 18th and asked if the Commission would like to co-sponsor the function. Chairman Bogot and Commissioner Hill volunteered to represent the Commission at the event.

Commissioner Hill moved to have the Commission serve as a co-sponsor of the Park District ravine cleanup event. Commissioner Sultan seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, Chairman Bogot declared that the motion unanimously passed 7-0.

Commissioner Hill noted that Mayor Belsky will be recognized by the School Board on May 17th at 7 p.m. at the District 112 building on Green Bay Road and that Commissioners are invited to attend. Hill also announced that Project Citizen students will be giving a presentation to the City Council at their meeting on May 23rd.

Chairman Bogot thanked Commissioner Sultan for leading the educational tour on May 1st. Commissioner Sultan requested that the Commission review the Steep Slope regulations at a future meeting, possibly in July.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bogot adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara E. Cates, Secretary

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON _____

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



Memorandum

To: Members of the Natural Resources Commission

From: Barbara E. Cates, Planner
Michael Bernardi, Assistant Civil Engineer

Date: June 8, 2011

Re: Agenda Items for the June 15th Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission

NEW BUSINESS

A. Reminder of Ravine Cleanup Event Co-Sponsored by the Commission and the Park District on June 18th

The Commission is registered to co-sponsor the Ravine Cleanup event on June 18th, and the flyer advertising the event is attached for the Commission's reference. This information has been posted in the beach kiosks, on the City's website, in the train stations and in public facilities. Staff has also reserved a dumpster for the event. Chairman Bogot will lead a discussion of this item to verify volunteers to represent the Commission at the cleanup.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion of July 4th Event Planning

Chairman Bogot will lead a discussion of this item to determine outstanding event logistics. Per the discussion at the May meeting, the following Commissioners have volunteered to assist with the Commission's participation in the July 4th festivities.

Chairman Bogot:

- bring a tent
- draft a handout with composting information
- email volunteers a week before the event to verify staffing of the booth
- participate in the parade
- staff the booth

Commissioner Compher:

- provide EPA handouts and educational material

Commissioner Dennison:

- staff the booth

Commissioner Friedman:

- staff the booth

Commissioner Matthews:

- provide a rain garden demonstration
- advertise the Award for Meritorious Service nomination process

Student Representative Brint:

- look into opportunities for student involvement
- staff the booth

Park District Representative Meyer:

- secure tables and chairs
- modify the existing booth banner
- design and print magnets for the parade vehicle
- drive the parade vehicle

Staff Liaisons Cates and Bernardi:

- purchase the rain barrel, book and raffle tickets
- collect and provide copies of the City's informational handouts (including information on the polystyrene recycling program, links to information available online and supplemental handouts related to ravine-bluff maintenance and vegetation)
- collect and provide copies of other relevant environmental education handouts (including information from the Alliance for the Great Lakes, U.S. Green Building Council and Grainger)
- coordinate the printing of posters
- loan City-owned easels for the booth
- submit a parade application to drive a vehicle
- purchase candy and water to distribute

B. Update on the Commission's Consideration of a Nomination for the Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment

Chairman Bogot will present information on this agenda item.

C. Status Report on the Environmental Commission's Plastic Bag Recommendations

Chairman Bogot will present information on this agenda item.

D. Status Report on the Green Team

Commissioner Himmelfarb will present information on this agenda item.

ATTACHMENTS

- Ravine Cleanup Flyer
- For Information Purposes Only: Lake County Journal Article, "Highland Park Leads Foam Recycling Program"

ARE YOU FISH FRIENDLY?



RAVINE CLEAN UP

Saturday, June 18 | 9:00AM-Noon

Meet at Moraine Park [2501 Sheridan Rd.]

Anyone living along the ravines can help by cleaning up around your property. Remember: **Look Up** (to see how rainwater is handled on your property), **Look Down** (for bare soil to seed or native plants to protect), **Look Around** (for broken storm or irrigation systems, unsecured recyclables & trash in the ravines).

Want to help out in the parks? RSVP: Rebecca Grill at rgrill@pdhp.org. Volunteers should bring work gloves & heavy duty plastic bags. Prepare to be muddy.



This event is also sponsored by the Natural Resources Commission for the City of Highland Park.

[Print Page](#)By STEPHANIE N. LEHMAN - slehman@lakecountyjournal.com

Highland Park leads foam recycling program

HIGHLAND PARK – If you dine in Highland Park, you might notice a poster in the restaurant that explains how you can recycle the container in which you receive your food.

The posters are part of a marketing campaign to raise awareness of a new recycling program that is available to residents of Highland Park, which is one of the leaders of commercial and residential recycling in Lake County, said Walter Willis, executive director of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County.

A year ago, Highland Park officials were considering a ban on No. 6 polystyrene foam – the material used by many fast-food restaurants to package food items – because it was not a recyclable product within the city, said Councilman Steven Mandel.

“Highland Park prides itself on being a very sustainable, forward-thinking community,” Mandel said. “At the time we were considering banning [No. 6 foam], we were approached by Dart [Container Corp., who] said, ‘Listen, instead of banning it, would you work [with] us for creating a pilot program for collecting it so we could move forward to recycle it?’”

The city agreed, and in December, DART and Pactiv – both companies that make foam products – along with SWALCO, helped initiate a six-month pilot program to recycle No. 6 foam at the city’s existing electronics recycling drop off center.

It was an immediate success, Dart officials said, as residents brought in more than 140 pounds of foam in just three hours during the program’s inaugural “Recycling Extravaganza” in January.

That’s an impressive figure, considering foam is 95 percent air, said Michael Westerfield, corporate director of recycling programs for Dart.

In March, another 300 pounds of foam was collected from the drop-off site, Mandel said, and the program has been extended through the end of 2011.

“The issue was it sits in landfills and sits there forever,” Westerfield said. “We understand that our products sit there – that’s the reality – so we wanted to provide them with a solution, which is recycling.”

The reason No. 6 foam is not recycled in most communities is twofold, Willis said. First, it’s not a high volume material – there simply isn’t as much foam being used as other products.

In fact, foam overall makes up about 1 percent of the waste stream, Westerfield said. One third of that 1 percent comes from food service products, like the foam cups made by Dart that are used in restaurants like KFC, and Sonic. The other two-thirds comes from other foam materials, like the foam used to protect the corners of TVs and other appliances.

Second, No. 6 foam is extremely light, Willis said. Unless the foam is condensed to produce a heavier material per cubic yard, the cost to transport the foam ruins the economics of recycling it.

A 48-foot semi truck will only hold 1,000 pounds of loose foam, Westerfield said. It can hold 40,000 pounds of foam if it’s compacted. But most recycling companies haven’t been able to rationalize spending \$42,000 on equipment that would condense a lesser-used material.

That’s where Dart, Pactiv and SWALCO were able to step in. Pactiv paid for a foam drop-off container that sits at SWALCO’s electronics recycling location in Highland Park. When it’s full, Dart picks up the container and compacts the product, which can then be made into crown molding, nursery flats for flowers and even picture frames.

“We can ship it anywhere in the world, and it is still cost-effective at that point,” Westerfield said. Highland Park’s recycling program has come a long way since January, Willis said.

The city’s electronics drop-off location normally receives visits from 50 to 60 people every day the facility is open, Willis said. Nearly a quarter of those customers are now bringing foam to be recycled.

“We have started seeing the numbers increase, as far as the number of people who are bringing [foam], and how much they’re bringing,” Willis said.

But the city isn’t finished. Mandel would like to see local businesses house foam recycling containers, and the Natural Resource Commission of Highland Park is working with its school district to have a collection site for the foam containers that some vendors use for hot lunch, he said.

The real goal, however, is to have the city’s recycling companies provide curbside pickup for the foam, Mandel said.

"While that's a good program – to have a drop-off – Highland Park is looking for the industry to do more," Willis said. "Historically, drop-offs do not work as well as a convenient curbside program."

SWALCO is not actively looking at new drop-off sites in Lake County, Willis said, but any Lake County resident can use Highland Park's drop-off.

"Any time you start collecting and aggregating a material that we haven't [dealt with before], the market is slow," Willis said. "We're hoping the markets will enhance, that we can overcome some barriers with the [foam]."

Want to know more?

The Highland Park Public Works Department will accept **No.6 polystyrene foam products** from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Friday at its electronic recycling drop-off location, 1180 Half Day Road, in Highland Park.

Guidelines include:

- All foam products must have a No. 6 recycling symbol. Acceptable foam products include packaging foam – like molded forms and shapes – cups, containers, egg cartons, meat trays and food/lunch trays.
- Foam products should be emptied and rinsed before recycling.
- No straws, lids, plastic wrap, foam insulation or packing peanuts will be accepted.

For more information, visit www.ci.highland-park.il.us.

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