

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, September 14, 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, SEPTEMBER 14, 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: July 13, 2011

IV. Business from the Public

V. New Business

- A. Approval of CY2012 Commission Budget Request
- B. Discussion of Yellow Pages Delivery Restrictions
- C. Discussion of Environmental Award Nomination Process
- D. Discussion of Adopt-A-Beach Event on September 17, 2011
- E. Discussion of Potential October Commission Retreat

VI. Old Business

- A. Discussion of Measures to Promote Polystyrene Recycling
- B. Status Report on Plastic Bag Recycling Initiative
- C. Status Report on the Green Team

VII. Other Business

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

VIII. Adjournment

Posted in City Hall on September 7, 2011

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

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, July 13, 2011

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

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:33 p.m., Vice Chairman Himmelfarb called the meeting to order and the Staff Liaison called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Bogot (6:45 p.m.), Compher, Dennison, Friedman, Hill, Himmelfarb, Matthews (7:05 p.m.), Sultan, Naftzger and Meyer

Members Absent: Brint

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: Councilman Mandel

MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission—June 15, 2011

Commissioner Sultan moved approval of the presented minutes of the regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission held on Wednesday, June 15, 2011. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, Vice Chairman Himmelfarb declared that the motion passed 6-0.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no business from the public.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentational Overview of Steep Slope and Beach Structure Ordinances

Staff Liaison Cates made a detailed presentation on the background of this Item, highlighting the key regulations in Articles 7 and 19 of the Zoning Code.

Chairman Bogot joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Commissioners Sultan and Hill discussed the importance of education, particularly to curtail issues of neglect and work done without a permit.

Commissioner Matthews joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

B. Recap of July 4th Event Participation

Chairman Bogot thanked Commissioners for their participation in the July 4th festivities, noting that the efforts contributed to a bump in polystyrene recycling. Bogot noted that the winner of the raffle, a Highland Park resident, was pleased to receive the compost bin and book. Commissioners discussed possible tweaks for the Commission's participation in 2012 events including: relocating the booth onto the main route and ordering t-shirts so that the crowd can clearly identify Commission members.

C. Discussion of Ways to Promote the Polystyrene Recycling Program

Councilman Mandel requested the Commission's assistance in further promoting the polystyrene recycling program.

Chairman Bogot suggested that Commissioners volunteer to contact the City's restaurants to personally inform them of the program. Staff Liaison Cates suggested staff draft a memo with talking points of the recycling program to help guide Commissioners' discussions.

The Commission determined that several questions needed to be addressed before restaurants could be contacted: 1) can Dart provide stickers for carryout bags; 2) can the collection hours be expanded or can a bin be provided for 24 hour drop off?

Staff Liaison Cates indicated that she would determine the answers to both outstanding questions, draft talking points, and be in touch with Commissioners via email to begin outreach.

Vice Chair Himmelfarb stated that she would be looking into recycling opportunities at local schools, and noted that the foam packing material for new school computers would be recycled.

D. Recap of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Meeting and Conference

Commissioner Hill and Councilmen Naftzger and Mandel briefed the Commission on their experiences at the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative event. Hill noted that Highland Park was the only city from Illinois that participated. Program topics included river revitalization, regional biodiversity and beach restoration. Commissioner Hill screened a short film which provided an overview of recent water management efforts in Quebec.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Status Report on the Green Team

Vice Chair Himmelfarb announced that there was no new information to report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Bogot noted that the ravine cleanup event on June 18th which was co-hosted by the Park District and the Commission had been a success, with 940 pounds of trash pulled out of the ravines.

Commissioner Compher reported that the Non-motorized Transportation Plan Working Group had 2 public meetings which were well attended by a good cross-section of residents. The Working Group will continue its discussions and compile a report in the coming months.

Commissioner Matthews informed the Commission of the Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council Day of Service, to be held on September 24, 2011.

The Commission determined that, following in the tradition of the Environmental Commission, the August meeting would be cancelled and that the yearly retreat should be held in October.

Councilman Mandel reported on his recent visit to a depressed natural gas site near Palwaukee.

Councilman Mandel noted that he would like to move the Environmental Commission's recommendation regarding requirements for plastic bag recycling receptacles at establishments greater than 10,000 sq. ft. forward to the City Council; Mandel noted that he would not be pursuing the second aspect of the Commission's recommendation regarding a plastic bag fee and asked if the Commission was in support of his suggested approach. The Commission indicated that they did not object to Councilman Mandel's approach.

Councilman Naftzger noted that he would like to discuss restrictions for the distribution of yellow page phone book delivery because they are hard to recycle due to the quality of paper and amount of ink. Councilman Naftzger noted that he would work with the Chair to put the item on an upcoming agenda.

Councilman Mandel noted that one of the City's interns liaison between the City and the business to do outreach to get them to participate in the recycling component of the commercial franchise.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bogot adjourned the meeting 8:30 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)

DRAFT



Memorandum

To: Members of the Natural Resources Commission

From: Barbara E. Cates, Planner

Date: September 7, 2011

Re: Agenda Items for the September 14th Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of CY2012 Commission Budget Request

Chairman Bogot, Commissioner Naftzger and I drafted the following 2012 work plan and budget request for the Commission's consideration. The drafts are intended to reflect the Commission's mission and purpose, and have been shaped by the Commission's ongoing discussions and prioritization of action items this year. The Commission is being asked to discuss and approve the work plan and budget request so that they may be submitted to the City Council for consideration by the deadline as required.

DRAFT 2012 WORK PLAN

It is proposed that the following items be pursued by the Commission during 2012:

- * Develop recommendations to encourage or require recycling by commercial facilities, which recommendation may potentially include mandatory commercial recycling for packaging, recycling receptacle requirements and an information and education component.
- * Assist in the City's accomplishment of Sustainability Master Plan objectives.
- * Participate in working groups to advance City initiatives including the development of on-site stormwater management incentives and a complete streets policy, as directed by the City Council.
- * Continue to participate in environmental education events such as Arbor Day, Earth Day, July 4th, river and beach cleanups and movie screenings.
- * Continue collaboration with the Park District of Highland Park to seasonally update the educational displays in the kiosks at Rosewood and Millard Parks and co-host environmental workshops for residents.

- * Continue to review and provide recommendations on Steep Slope variation requests and Beach Structure Permit applications.
- * Continue to solicit nominations and grant an Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment.

DRAFT 2012 BUDGET REQUEST

Based on the above work plan, it is suggested that the Commission request the following budget:

EDUCATION & TRAINING

This budget line item will give the Commission flexibility and cover costs associated with kiosk displays and environmental education events including Arbor Day, July 4th, Earth Day, beach and river cleanups and movie screenings.....\$2,000

BOOKS & SUPPLIES

This budget line item has historically been included within the Commission’s budget and gives the Commission the opportunity to purchase books, periodical subscriptions or other educational materials as necessary.....\$100

DINNERS

This budget line item covers the cost of dinners at Commission meetings.....\$1,500

B. Discussion of Yellow Pages Delivery Restrictions

Councilman Naftzger will present information on this agenda item.

C. Discussion of Environmental Award Nomination Process

At the May and June meetings, the Commission discussed the idea of revamping the Environmental Award nomination process; the Commission also expressed an interest in soliciting nominations this fall. Commissioners are being asked to discuss and determine the best approach so that next steps can be taken as necessary.

D. Discussion of Adopt-A-Beach Event on September 17, 2011

The Natural Resources Commission and the League of Women Voters has teamed up to invite residents to attend an upcoming Adopt-A-Beach event cleanup on September 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. An announcement of the event was posted on the City’s website and in the recent edition of the *Highlander*. The following Captains are taking the lead at the City’s various posts:

- Moraine Beach:** Matt Jennings
- Rosewood Beach:** Liz Ettelson
- Ravine Drive:** Marjie Ettlinger
- Ft. Sheridan:** John Schlesinger

Commissioners are encouraged to attend the event. Chairman Bogot will lead a discussion of

volunteer opportunities and approaches at the upcoming meeting. For more information, please see the following website: www.greatlakesadopt.org

E. Discussion of Potential October Commission Retreat

The Commission expressed an interest in using the October meeting to host a retreat to strategize next year's work plan. At the retreat, it is recommended that the Commission use the work plan actions that are determined under the first agenda item of the meeting to craft a spreadsheet with point people and a timeline for each task, similar to what was done for 2011. I'm hoping to gauge if there is still an interest in holding a retreat in October, and discuss possible venues for the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Measures to Promote Polystyrene Recycling

Staff Liaison Cates will present information on this agenda item.

B. Status Report on Plastic Bag Recycling Initiative

Staff Liaison Cates will present information on this agenda item.

C. Status Report on the Green Team

Vice Chair Himmelfarb will present information on this agenda item.