

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, March 13, 2013 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, MARCH 13, 2013  
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:** February 13, 2013

**IV. Business from the Public**

**V. New Business**

- A. Informational Presentation on Suggested Tools to Enable Public and Private Property Owners to Assess and Restore their Ravines by Alliance for the Great Lakes Representative Angela Larsen
- B. Informational Presentation on Ravine 8 Ecosystem Restoration by City Engineer John Welch

**VI. Old Business**

- A. Status Report on the Energy Impact Illinois Program
- B. Status Report on Library Movie Screening of *With My Own Two Wheels* on March 3, 2013

**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:** February 13, 2013

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:35 p.m., Chairman Sultan called the meeting to order and the Staff Liaison called the roll.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Coyle, Hannick, Matthews, Rheinstrom, Ross, Sultan, Meyer, Beck and Facchini

**Members Absent:** Bogot and Naftzger

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

**Staff Present:** Staff Liaison Barbara Cates

**Also Present:** Lake County Board Member Steve Mandel, Citizen Advisor Mark Nolan Hill, Sustainability Coordinator Bryan Tillman and Energy Impact Illinois Representative Paige Bonk

**MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission—January 9, 2013**

Commissioner Coyle moved for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013. Commissioner Rheinstrom seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, Chairman Sultan declared that the motion unanimously passed 6-0.

**BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There was no business from the public presented for consideration.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Presentation on Energy Impact Illinois Goals by Paige Bonk**

Paige Bonk, representative of Energy Impact Illinois, presented an overview of this Item,

wherein she discussed the background of the initiative and gave examples of program outreach in neighboring communities. Commissioner Rheinstrom discussed the importance of relationships between homeowners and local contractors and the benefits of competitive bidding. Commissioner Coyle discussed her own positive experience with the program.

Ms. Bonk noted that the program is slated to expire in mid May and reported that it has thus far been promoted in Pioneer Press publications, *Highland Park Patch*, and the *Highlander*. The Commission suggested continued promotion of the program through a community meeting, possibly to be aired on public access TV, and the use of informational posters to be provided by Energy Impact Illinois. The Commission expressed an interest in providing a statement of support for the program to be extended beyond its May expiration. Staff Liaison Cates and Sustainability Coordinator Tillman volunteered to work with Ms. Bonk and Mayor Rotering to discuss the most appropriate next steps.

#### B. Status Report on Sustainability Plan Implementation and Discussion of the Draft Electric Vehicle Expansion Plan

Sustainability Coordinator Tillman presented an overview of this Item and discussed recent community outreach efforts including improvements to the City website and posts in the *Highlander's* new "Green Corner" section. Commissioner Ross and Tillman discussed commercial recycling requirements.

The Commission talked about electric vehicle use projections and statistics. Lake County Board Member Mandel discussed his experience using a Nissan Leaf. Chairman Sultan noted that 11 electric vehicles are currently registered in Highland Park. Commissioner Coyle prompted Tillman to think about ways that the Commission can assist with the efforts. Tillman indicated that he will continue to keep the Commission briefed on the status of the City's sustainability initiatives.

#### C. Presentation on the City's Steep Slope Zone and Lake Michigan Protection Zone Regulations

Staff Liaison Cates presented an overview of this Item, specifically reviewing the City's Steep Slope Variation and Beach Structure Permit Application regulations and processes. Citizen Advisor Hill observed that many residents are unaware of the regulations. Cates reviewed the brochures and supplemental materials that have been created to assist ravine and bluff homeowners with understanding the regulations.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### A. Continued Discussion of 2013 Commission Work Plan Action Items

Chairman Sultan led a conversation on the specific action items detailed in the Commission's Work Plan for 2013. Commissioners volunteered to participate for each action item, and Staff Liaison Cates indicated that she would fill in the Work Plan accordingly and use it to help shape future Commission meeting agendas.

B. Status Report on Library Movie Screening of *With My Own Two Wheels* on March 3, 2013

Staff Liaison Cates noted that Wilene Dennison, a former Natural Resources Commissioner, had worked with the Library prior to her departure to set up a screening of the film *With My Own Two Wheels* on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cates showed the Commission a copy of the promotional poster for the event and noted that Plan Commissioner Phil Kaplan will lead a discussion on his work with the Chicago Bikes Cooperative following the screening. Cates noted that a reminder would be emailed to the Commission prior to the event.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Sultan reported that he had recently met with Environmental Commissioners from other North Shore communities to share ideas and learn about various sustainability initiatives. Sultan noted that he will continue to attend the meetings and report back to the Commission as necessary.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Sultan adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara E. Cates, Secretary

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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 II

Date: March 6, 2013

Re: Agenda Items for the March 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission

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## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### A. Informational Presentation on Suggested Tools to Enable Public and Private Property Owners to Assess and Restore their Ravines by Alliance for the Great Lakes Representative Angela Larsen

Angela Larsen, a representative of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, has been involved in the creation of a Ravine Restoration Toolkit which is intended to focus on:

- 1) Rapid Assessments, which provide municipalities, Park Districts and private contractors with a process for identifying ravine restoration opportunities; and,
- 2) a Residential Guide, which provides strategies for residential land owners to help protect their ravines.

The materials have been drafted, and Angela's next step is to provide stakeholders (such as the City of Highland Park and the Park District of Highland Park) with a status report on the project and receive feedback to determine how these tools can be implemented and how partnerships can be forged to advance them.

For additional information on the Alliance for the Great Lakes, please visit:

<http://www.greatlakes.org/>

### B. Informational Presentation on Ravine 8 Ecosystem Restoration by City Engineer John Welch

City Engineer John Welch will be attending the upcoming meeting to report on ravine restoration work planned for Ravine 8.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### A. Status Report on the Energy Impact Illinois Program

At the last Commission meeting, Paige Bonk (a member of the outreach team with Energy Impact Illinois) visited the Commission to discuss the purpose and goals of Energy Impact Illinois as they relate to home energy efficiency improvements. As a reminder, Energy Impact Illinois is an alliance of local and federal governments, utilities, and non-profit organizations that has received a grant from the Department of Energy through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to help fund energy efficiency improvements in the Chicagoland area.

During the Commission meeting, it was reported that the program was originally slated to expire in May. The Commission expressed support for an extension of the program and recommended hosting a community meeting to promote it. *I am happy to report that Energy Impact Illinois has been extended to provide rebates until July 30<sup>th</sup>. Thus far, over 60 residents have signed up to participate in the program, and Bryan, Paige and I plan to schedule a City Hall Impact Event in the near future to continue promoting the program.*

For those of you that have not yet signed up for the energy audit and are interested in doing so, you now have extra time to take advantage of this program! For additional information, please visit: <http://energyimpactillinois.org/>

### B. Status Report on Library Movie Screening of *With My Own Two Wheels* on March 3, 2013

The film *With My Own Two Wheels* screened at the Highland Park Library on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Because the Commission has budgetary funds to schedule several additional yet-to-be-planned environmental movie screenings through this year, I thought it would be instructive to discuss the success of the most recent event.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

- 2013 Work Plan Action Items—Please note that this is a working document intended to reflect the Commission’s discussion on February 13, 2013

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ACTION PLAN 2013**

Action #	ACTION ITEM	TASK	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	First Quarter 2013	Second Quarter 2013	Third Quarter 2013	Fourth Quarter 2013
<b>2013 WORK PLAN PROPOSED FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION</b>							
1	Help Publicize the LMWEP Ravine Standards Guide	Work with a Contract Professional to Develop and Promote Guidelines	Brent Ross & Staff		√	√	√
2	Review Composting Program Results & Provide Feedback	Make Recommendation to the City Council Regarding the Effectiveness of the Program	Bill Bogot/Ann Coyle & Staff		√		
3	Review Recycling Facility Hours & Provide Feedback	Make recommendation to the City Council Regarding the Effectiveness of the Facility's Existion Operation	Ann Coyle/Steve Rheinstrom & Staff		√		
4	Work with Staff to Prepare an Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Application	Identify Opportunities for Collaboration on a Project; Submit for Funding Consideration by the IEPA	Brent Ross & Staff			√	√
5	Conduct Outreach on Polystyrene Recycling Pilot Program	Work with Business Owners to Continue to Distribute Promotional Stickers & Posters on an as Needed Basis	Scott Beck/Renee Facchini & Staff		√		
		Assist with Recycling Extravaganza Events as Needed	Steve Rheinstrom & Staff	√			
		Tour Recycling Facility to Learn More About the Process	Tom Sultan			√	
6	Conduct Outreach on Plastic Bag Recycling Receptacle Requirements	Continue to Work with Business Owners to Track Data and Ensure Compliance	Staff	√			
7	Conduct Outreach on Commercial Facilities and CBD Recycling	Work with Business Owners, Provide Information on Web and in Highlander	Staff		√		
8	Grant Award for Meritorious Service to the Highland Park Environment	Accept & Consider Nominations and Grant Award	Staff & Entire Commission				√
9	Seasonally Update the Educational Displays in the Kiosks at Rosewood and Millard Parks	Work with the Park District to Create & Display Spring Posters	Mark Hill/Park District & Staff	√			
		Work with the Park District to Create & Display Summer Posters	Mark Hill/Park District & Staff		√		
		Work with the Park District to Create & Display Fall Posters	Mark Hill/Park District & Staff			√	
10	Participate in Beach, River & Ravine Cleanup Events	Look into Sponsorship Opportunities for the Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach Event	TBD			√	
		Look into Sponsorship Opportunities for the Friends of the Chicago River Cleanup Event	Don Matthews & Staff		√		
		Secure Dumpster for Collection	Staff		√		
		Promote & Assist the Park District with Ravine Cleanup Events	TBD		√	√	
11	Participate in July 4th Event	Secure Tent, Table & Informational Material	Tom Sultan			√	
		Staff Booth at July 4th Event	Tom Sultan			√	
12	Draft Articles for the <i>Highlander</i>	"Green Corner" Energy Impact Illinois Energy Audit Program	Staff	√			
		"Green Corner" TOPIC TO BE DETERMINED	Staff		√		
		"Green Corner" TOPIC TO BE DETERMINED	Staff			√	
		"Green Corner" TOPIC TO BE DETERMINED	Staff				√
13	Organize & Host Environmental Movie Series	Contact Library to Establish Event Dates	TBD	ONGOING BASIS			
		Acquire License to Screen Film	TBD	ONGOING BASIS			
		Promote Film Screenings	TBD	ONGOING BASIS			
14	Participate in Project Citizen	Assist Students with Project & Keep Commission Updated on Efforts	Mark Hill	ONGOING BASIS			
15	Participate in Green Team Initiatives	Attend Meetings & Give Input	Scott Beck/Renee Facchini & Staff	ONGOING BASIS			
16	Participate in North Shore Environmental Commissioners Group	Attend Meetings & Give Input	Bill Bogot/Tom Sultan	ONGOING BASIS			
17	Assist in the Accomplishment of Sustainability Plan Initiatives	Establish Implementation Plan	Entire Commission & Staff	ONGOING BASIS			
18	Review & Recommend on Variations and Beach Structure Permit Applications	Forward Findings of Fact to ZBA & City Council	Entire Commission & Staff	ONGOING BASIS			
Pink Highlighted Cell = Task Accomplished							