

CITY OF FRANKLIN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES

December 19, 2007

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL
CALL

I. Chair Wilhelm called the regular meeting of the Environmental Commission to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room, Franklin City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

Present were Alderman Skowronski, Commissioners Cannon, Kaczor, Kowalski, and Taylor. Commissioner Archer has resigned. Jim Goulee of Parks People was also present. Mayor Tom Taylor joined the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENT

II. The comment period opened at 7:03 p.m. No one coming forward, the citizen comment period was closed at 7:03 p.m.

Chair Wilhelm informed Commissioners of the meeting with Mayor Taylor and Mark Luberda with further information and discussion at next meeting.

MINUTES-
November 28, 2007

III. A. Alderman Skowronski moved and Commissioner Kaczor seconded approval of the November 28, 2007 meeting minutes, as amended. Upon voice vote, all voted 'aye'. One abstained. Motion carried.

Conservancy District. Review and recommendations relative to land East of 112th Street between Oakwood Road and South County Line Road that may be placed into conservancy and a plan for the restoration of these lands as well as a plan for connecting these lands to the Franklin Park and to lands that reach into Racine County. (Mayor Taylor)

IV. A. Commissioners reviewed maps provided by Planner Sumwalt. Discussion relative to conservancy area issues, plans, and initiatives. Chair Wilhelm and Mayor Taylor to look into having the February meeting at Wehr Nature Center or Indian Community School. No action taken.

Root River. Review and recommendations concerning the possible clean-up of the Root River (within Franklin) so that it is capable of supporting activities such as fishing and boating. (Mayor Taylor). *Appearance by Jim Goulee of the Park People is anticipated.*

IV. B. Jim Goulee of Park People spoke to Commissioners on parks practices, policies and programs. Chair Wilhelm explained her interest in having the Park People involved in some of the Root River corridor planning as well as DNR, SEWRPC and the County to see if there are recreational or protection plans for the river as the City of Franklin is fully developed. Mayor Taylor has been in contact with state representatives and other municipalities/counties with discussions relating to Root River restoration initiatives.

Further discussion.

Jim Goulee to follow up on contact with Marty and to report back to the committee at a future meeting. Further information found at www.parkspeoplemke.org.

No action taken.

Administrative rules, procedures,
and order.

IV. C. Chair Wilhelm and Alderman Skowronski to discuss rules, suggestions and revisions with City Attorney Wesolowski.

Article I. Name of Commission.

Suggestion to have 'conservation' or 'natural resource' as part of the commission name. 'Conservation Commission' was favored.

Article II. Authorization. No changes.

Chair Wilhelm would like one unwritten rule introduced to procedures which would be that when you are unable to make a scheduled meeting to notify the Chair so the Chair is aware of number of commissioners not attending to make sure there is a quorum for a meeting and give proper notice.

Chair Wilhelm stated she would like to be able to give a new commissioner a list of the rules and procedures so they don't have to try and guess what the unwritten rules are. Discussion to place this policy item under Article VII. Meetings. Section 3. (Policy of being absent.)

Article III. Membership.

Section 1. – No change.

Section 2. – No change.

Section 3. – No change.

Section 4. – No change.

Section 5. – Discussion and further review.

Section 6. – No change.

Article IV. Duties

Discussion of Commission having flexibility to put items on the agenda for discussion without direction from Common Council. Further discussion and direction from City Attorney.

Article V. Officers.

Section 1. – No change.

Section 2. – Discussion on procedure of election of officers and addition of Parliamentarian as directed in Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 3. – Discussion on wording changes relating to election procedures and vacancy positions.

Mayor Taylor recommending adding verbage "unable or unavailable" for clarification of the Chair or Vice-Chair presiding.

Section 4. Chair Wilhelm suggesting wording of "The Chair, with the assistance of the City staff, as appropriate, shall:" Delete e) arrange proper and legal notice of hearings. Also remove 'and hearings' from b).

Section 5. – No change.

Section 6. – No change.

Article VI. Committees, Subcommittees

Section 1. – Discussion on Arbor Day subcommittee.

Article VII. Meetings

Section 1. – No change.

Section 2. – No change.

Monitoring of federal and state laws and policies regarding environmental issues.

IV. D.

Chair Wilhelm sent out email and received several responses that they would send information forward.

Mayor Taylor informed commission that the City of Franklin Planning Department was recently separated from the City Development Department and the Director of Administration is now in charge of Planning and the Environmental Commission. As part of that move, City Development Director, Doug Wheaton, is acting as the liaison between State government, Federal government and ICC and suggested the commission coordinate with Director Wheaton on things that are coming up at the state or federal level, find out what lobbying is being done for the alliances and what things Wisconsin municipalities may already be working on.

Review and recommendations of policies and procedures regarding City efforts to perform recycling and composting.

IV. E. Chair Wilhelm provided additional information to commissioners in addition to what was emailed to them. Commissioner Kowalski reviewed materials and information he provided to commissioners to be included in the packet. Alderman Skowronski also provided materials and information to be included in the packet to the Council. Commissioners will present recycling packet to Council on January 22, 2008.

Arbor Day tree purchase order

IV. F. Mayor Taylor suggested Chair Wilhelm send information for Common Council agenda relating to Environmental and Arbor Day practices for discussion. Chair Wilhelm and Alderman Skowronski will work on getting trees for Arbor Day; Chair Wilhelm to provide Alderman Skowronski with information.

Goals, Targets and Projects of the Commission - Updates as appropriate:

IV. E. Wetland mitigation, based on WI DNR guidelines relating to developer standards and policy, to be reviewed by commission members with follow-up to Plan Commission.

- i. Alternative storm water, wetland, woodland and mitigation measures.
- ii. Educational program to implement control of Purple loosestrife.
- iii. Review conservation subdivision maintenance options.
- iv. Assist public through education on Smart Growth.

ADJOURNMENT

V. Alderman Skowronski moved and Commissioner Taylor seconded to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting at 9:15 p.m. Upon voice vote, all voted 'aye.' Motion carried.