

CITY OF FRANKLIN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 2020

Approved
December 9, 2020

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

- I. Chairman Arthur Skowron called the October 28, 2020 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Inspection Conference Room, Franklin City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

On roll call, the following were in attendance: Chair Arthur Skowron, Vice Chair Linda Horn, Commissioners James Cieslak, Ken Hritz and Jamie Groark and Assistant Planner Marion Ecks attended the meeting in the Inspection Conference Room, Franklin City Hall. Also present was City Forester Tom Riha. Alderman Dan Mayer and Commissioner Patricia Pomahac participated remotely.

CITIZEN COMMENT

- II. The citizen comment period opened at 7:03 p.m. and closed at 7:03 p.m.. No citizens were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the regular meeting of September 23, 2020.

III.

- A. Vice Chair Horn moved and Commissioner Cieslak seconded approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held September 23, 2020 meeting as presented. On roll call vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (7-0-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ways to improve and expand Arbor Day 2021; involvement of Root-Pike WIN (Watershed Initiative Network), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2001, program in Arbor Day celebration; Arbor Day event(s) planning.

Review of articles for the City of Franklin Newsletter, from the Root-Pike WIN (Watershed Initiative Network), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2001, program [this item/event is in process due to COVID-19 related restrictions].

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources programs for presentation at the City of Franklin Library-dates/schedule [this item/event is in

IV.

- A. Commissioner Pomahac has reserved the Fadrow Room in the Franklin Public Library for Saturday, May 1, 2021 pending availability due to COVID-19 restrictions. Discussion only. No action taken.
- B. Associate Planner Ecks will contact Nan Calvert, Root-Pike WIN for a set of seasonal articles to be included in the City of Franklin Newsletter and Web site for 2021. Associate Planner Ecks will check with staff for a list of 2021 newsletter dates and deadlines. Discussion only. No action taken.
- C. Commissioner Pomahac has reserved the Fadrow Room in the Franklin Public Library for Thursday, April 22,

process due to COVID-19 related restrictions].

2021 pending availability due to COVID-19 restrictions. Discussion only. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Environmental Commission recommendation to the City of Franklin Common Council to add Buckthorn (invasive species) to the list of noxious weeds (evaluate additional information and work with Staff to develop a proposal for classification of Buckthorn as a noxious weed).

V.

A. Topics discussed relative to adding Buckthorn to the list of noxious weeds included:

1) Educating City of Franklin residents as to identification of both variations of Buckthorn

2) Make citizens aware of harm caused by this invasive species not only to native plants but also to birds and other wildlife.

3) The importance of a gradual, phase in approach for homeowners, should the need for mitigation be necessary.

The Commission requested that staff provide additional information at the next meeting on current local and state laws, and invasive species management best practices.

Discussion only. No action taken.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

VI.

A. Correction to agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2020.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Environmental Commission involvement in the City of Franklin’s National Night Out program 2021.

VII.

A.

Buckthorn-addition to noxious weed list update.

B.

Commissioner Cieslak will continue to investigate.

Gardening with native and natural plants.

C.

ADJOURNMENT

Notice is given that upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information, please contact the Franklin City Clerk’s office at (414) 425-7500.

VIII.

Commissioner Horn moved and Commissioner Hritz seconded to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting on October 28, 2020 at 7:55 p.m.. On roll call vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (7-0-0).