

CITY OF FRANKLIN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
March 24, 2021

Approved
April 28, 2021

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

- I. Chairman Arthur Skowron called the March 24, 2021 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

On roll call, the following were in attendance: Chair Arthur Skowron, Vice Chair Linda Horn and Commissioners Jamie Groark, Sudarshan Sharma and James Cieslak. Also present were Associate Planner Marion Ecks and City of Franklin Forester Tom Riha. Alderman Dan Mayer participated remotely. Excused was Commissioner Patricia Pomahac.

CITIZEN COMMENT

- II. The citizen comment period opened at 7:02 p.m. and closed at 7:12 p.m.. 4 citizens were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the special meeting of February 24, 2021.

- III.
 - A. Commissioner Cieslak moved and Commissioner Groark seconded approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held February 24, 2021 as presented. On roll call vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (6-0-1).

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, update on trees order and educational flyer on Buckthorn (invasive species).

- IV.
 - A. Arbor Day is scheduled for Saturday May 1, 2021 at the Franklin Public Library from 10:00 am to noon. Commissioner Pomahac has reserved the Fadrow room inside the library in case of inclement weather. Tom Riha, city Forester, reported trees are on order. Commissioner Cieslak noted that both the Audubon Society and Wild Ones will provide handouts pertinent to plantings for birds and butterflies. Discussion only. No action taken.

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], including educational materials for Buckthorn (invasive

- B. Quick Response code provided by Commissioner Groark was given to Associate Planner Ecks. Discussion only. No action taken.

species), that is, website information and QR (Quick Response) code (a two-dimensional barcode used to share website links).

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources programs for presentation at the City of Franklin Library-dates/schedule [this item/event is in process due to COVID-19 related restrictions].

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation by Andy Kaminski of Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) on green infrastructure resources and information provided by MMSD to municipalities.
(<https://www.freshcoastguardians.com/take-action/municipal#>)

Natural Resource Features Special Exception application by WP Property Acquisitions LLC, (Wendt Family Trust, property owners) for the purpose of impacting one of the three wetlands on the property (2.167 acres), specifically, grading and filling 0.23 acres (9,784 square feet) of wetland, 0.60 acres (26,132 square feet) of wetland buffer and 0.79 acres (34,466 square feet) of wetland setback and the development will also remove 39% of young woodland on the site (the City of Franklin Unified Development Ordinance permits impacts up to 50% without requiring an exception), to construct a 200,000 square foot office/warehouse facility and a 300,000 square foot office/warehouse facility in the second phase, with potential for the second phase to increase up to 400,000 square feet, property located at 3617 West Oakwood Road, zoned Planned Development District No. 39 (Mixed Use Business Park) (Tax Key No. 950-9997-002).

City of Franklin street tree list update-best list reviews.

C. April 22nd room reservation can be cancelled. Future dates will be looked into as speakers become available and library restrictions, due to Covid, so allow. Discussion only. No action taken.

V.

A. Andy Kaminski, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) presented an overview of green infrastructure resources along with a Green Solutions funding template, <https://www.freshcoastguardians.com/take-action/municipal#>. Discussion only. No action taken.

B. Commissioner Cieslak moved and Commissioner Groark seconded a motion to accept staff recommendations to approve a Natural Resource Special Exception by WP Property Acquisitions LLC with exception of recommendation 3C, stream identifications. Motion to also include no planting of Norway Maple for landscaping. On roll call vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (6-0-1).

C. To be reviewed at the next meeting. Tom Riha is still developing list. Discussion only. No action taken.

Audubon Society new program on gardening for the birds, bees and butterflies.

D. Commissioner Cieslak is working on handouts for Arbor Day and developing information for homeowners for 2022. Discussion only. No action taken.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

April 28, 2021

VI.

A. April 28, 2021

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

VII.

A. Inside table or outside table available. Associate Planner Ecks to request outdoor.

Buckthorn-addition to noxious weed list update.

B.

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.

Vice Chair Horn moved and Commissioner Groark seconded to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting on March 24, 2021 at 8:16 p.m.. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (6-0-1).