

CITY OF FRANKLIN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2022

Approved
March 23, 2022

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

- I. Chair Linda Horn called the February 23, 2022 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission to order at 7:00 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 Linda Horn, Vice Chair Jamie Groark, Commissioners James Cieslak and Tom Niemiec. Excused was Commissioner Patricia Pomahac. Absent was Commissioner Sudarshan Sharma. Alderman Dan Mayer arrived at 7:06 p.m.. Also present were Associate Planner Marion Ecks, City Engineer Glen Morrow and City Forester Tom Riha.

CITIZEN COMMENT

- II. The citizen comment period opened at 7:01 p.m. and closed at 7:01 p.m. One citizen was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the regular meeting of January 12, 2022 and the regular meeting of January 5, 2022 of the Buckthorn Subcommittee.

III.

- A. Vice Chair Groark moved and Commissioner Cieslak seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular Buckthorn Subcommittee meeting held January 5, 2022. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (4-0-3).

Vice Chair Groark moved and Commissioner Cieslak seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 12, 2022. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (4-0-3).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Environmental Commission involvement in Arbor Day 2022 event (tentatively May 7, 2022).

IV.

- A. City Forester, Tom Riha reports two hundred Oak saplings, 25 Elderberry bushes, 25 High-bush Cranberry bushes, 50 Sugar Maple saplings, 25 White Cedar saplings and 25 Spruce saplings were ordered by the city for free distribution on Arbor Day.

Native wildflower seeds packets are being put together by Commissioner Cieslak, with support from Wisconsin Metro Audubon and Wehr Wild Ones. The goal is to have 50 packets to hand out to children at the Arbor Day event. The handout with the seeds will encourage families to take pictures of the gardens they create and share them with the city for display at future events.

More information will be coming from Tom Riha

regarding Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful and future events.

The Fadrow Room at the Franklin Public Library is available until 1:00 pm on Arbor Day. Discussion only, no action taken.

Review of articles for the City of Franklin Newsletter.

B. No articles. Discussion only. No action taken.

Update on Buckthorn Subcommittee activity and/or proposals. Survey article/questions for City newsletter.

C. Survey is out until March 31, 2022 and will have results at the April 27, 2022 meeting. Wild Ones – Buckthorn Zoom meeting will be sent and then forwarded to Associate Planner Ecks. Milwaukee County Parks invasive species prevention and control plan is in packet for future discussion in the Buckthorn Subcommittee or Environmental Commission regular meeting. Discussion only. No action taken.

City of Franklin street tree list update-recommendation to Common Council. Review of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Grant.

D. City Forester Riha discussed Grants for tree restoration and buckthorn removal. Discussion only. No action taken.

Environmental Commission participation in City of Franklin Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Task Force, to provide assistance in revisions to the Natural Resource Protection Standards and other elements of the City of Franklin UDO.

E. Planner Ecks provided a timeline. Outside firm will be starting to write sections of the UDO and getting them ready for review. Discussion only. No action taken.

Landfill life expectancy and future plans.

F. In the packet: Document Management Plan, "Is There A Long-Term Plan?" was discussed. There is a closure plan, future development and life expectancy. Discussion only. No action taken.

Funding for Environmental Commission activities.

G. Get ideas to Planner Ecks. Discussion only. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

V.

35th Street Stream Bank Stabilization project (City project to stabilize the banks of a stream that has caused erosion adjacent to South 35th Street).

A. City Engineer Morrow and Root Pike WIN, Dave Giodano and Christie Huster, presented how the river is moving closer to the road. They're looking at 2 Step Design but there are environmental issues. Adding meandering to increase water quality and habitat reconstruction are options. Looking into getting Drone footage.

Vice Chair Groark moved and Commissioner Cieslak seconded a motion to recommend to approve moving forward with the 35th Street Stream Bank Stabilization with periodic updates from City Engineer Morrow and Root Pike WIN. On roll call, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (5-0-2).

Wetland restoration at a future park, currently under development, at 8120 South Lovers Lane Road.

- B.** The future city park referred to as, Water Tower Park. Numerous wetland courses regarding removal of invasive species and plant natives. Only 1 tower will be built at this time. Land consists of 21 acres (4 parcels) with plans for driveway with 12 parking spaces. Buckthorn currently exists within wetland. Chemically treated big stumps. Two years for wetland restoration and development of both towers.

Vice Chair Groark moved and Commissioner Niemiec seconded a motion to recommend Root Pike WIN to work on behalf of the City to find funding and work on restoration of wetland at the future city park referred to as Water Tower Park with periodic check-ins by City staff and Root Pike WIN. On roll call, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (5-0-2).

Native habitat restoration project (City-wide) in the City of Franklin.

- C.** Commissioner Cieslak proposes identifying other areas in the city for native habitat restoration, once the projects at the 35th Street Streambank and the future City park referred to as Water Tower Park restorations are complete. Discussion only. No action taken.

Request by Franklin resident Jeremy Stimpson to consider participation in regional Solar Group Buy program.

- D.** Jeremy Stimpson has an open application for community group buy in. Inspection requirements needed by Inspection Services. City would facilitate program and Environmental Commission would make recommendation to Common Council. Common Council will decide on budget. Discussion only. No action taken.

Presentation of the Watershed Restoration Plan for Oak Creek by Laura Herrick, South Eastern Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission (SEWRPC) Chief Environmental Engineer.

- E.** SEWRPC (Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission) gave Root River presentation, "Oak Creek Watershed Future." Looking to improve:
 - 1) water availability
 - 2) habitat
 - 3) recreation
 - 4) floodingDave Giordano of Root Pike WIN discussed Respect Our Water Plans and 9 Key Points Plan. Grantors are available and may be attached to 9 Key Point Plans. Targeting area with mailers to address K9 fecal.

Alderman Mayer moved and Commissioner Cieslak seconded a motion to recommend to adopt SEWRPAC ,

Oak Creek Watershed plan. On roll call, all voted 'aye'.
Motion carried (5-0-2).

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

VI.

- A.** March 23, 2022

**DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA
ITEMS**

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources programs or other organizations for presentation at the City of Franklin Library or a room at City Hall-dates/schedule [this item/event is in process due to COVID-19 related restrictions] [tentative date: April, 2022].

VII.

- A.** No remote participation available for DNR. May move to a later date. Discussion only. No action taken.

Overview on Conservation Easements.

B.

Given template of what we would ask for development. Discussion only. No action taken.

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 Niemiec moved and Vice Chair Groark seconded to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting on February 23, 2022 at 9:07 pm. Alderman Mayer left the meeting at 8:42 p.m. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (4-0-3).