

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

June 16, 2016  
City Council Chambers

A Special Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the City of Woodstock was called to order at 5:30 PM on Thursday, June 16, 2016 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

**I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

A roll call was taken.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ed Ellinghausen, Jacki Krandel Steve Wenzel, and Chair Erica Poremba.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Laurie Kacmar.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Assistant Public Works Director Tom Migatz and Chief Deputy Clerk Jane Howie

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Commission was unable to approve the Minutes from the May 5, 2016 and May 26, 2016 meeting as some of the meetings' attendees were not present. This will be added to the July 7, 2016, Agenda for approval.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**A. Develop action items ranking matrix from Environmental Plan Recommendations List.**

Commission talked about finding a location for community gardens. J. Krandel shared that she spoke with the Farmers Market and they are not interested in participating.

S. Wenzel said there had been a bike rack on the Square, but he thinks it may be at Public Works now. E. Ellinghausen brought in information regarding a possible grant for bicycle racks. This information will be forwarded to the City's Grant Writer, Terry Willcockson.

Regarding the Hazardous waste program at Oak Forest, E. Poremba has left several voicemails and sent several emails with no response.

T. Migatz will resend the updated Environmental Plan to Commission members. Then, Commissioners should prioritize / rank each item of the matrix in the High Priority category; email T. Migatz with your response by June 30<sup>th</sup> for discussion at the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

T. Migatz shared that there's a company in Woodstock that may be interested in hosting a community garden. He will look into this further.

**B. Mention of Council request to explore mosquito spraying alternatives.**

T. Migatz said mosquito spraying is a concern by some Council members; many don't believe it's very effective. Council requests that the Commission look into other options. City Council did approve the Mosquito Abatement contract with Clarke Mosquito again this year. Their wish is to look for other options to the overnight spraying; adult abatement.

**C. Request by Commissioner Ellinghausen to explore options related to salt brine used to process potable water.**

Woodstock softens its water, softeners require thousands of pounds salt, effluent is discharged into the sanitary sewer system, which can cause problems. Woodstock, like many communities uses salt brine-based liquid additives for ice and snow control. Many agencies formulate their own product; Woodstock currently purchases the substance. It would cost less if Woodstock could make their own and realize additional cost savings by capturing some of the salt brine that is a by-product of making potable water. E. Ellinghausen presented information to the Commission. E. Ellinghausen recommended the following three goals:

- 1) To capture the brine used in softening water at the water treatment plants, and reuse it in the anti-icing liquids used by the City's snow removal equipment.
- 2) To reduce or eliminate the amount of anti-icing liquid currently purchased by the City.
- 3) To reduce amount of brine currently released to the City's wastewater treatment plants, and subsequent release to the receiving streams.

Action: Investigate the concentrations and quantity of brine currently discharged at the water treatment plants, and determine the suitability of its use as anti-icing liquid.

T. Migatz will speak with Public Works staff about testing and doing some research which he'll share with the Commission.

T. Migatz said that the Commission would have to determine the costs involved in purchasing equipment, as well as locating space for the equipment, etc.

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by J. Krandel, second by E. Poremba to adjourn this Special Meeting of the Environmental Commission to the next Special Meeting at 5:30 PM on Thursday, July 7, 2016. Ayes: Ed Ellinghausen, Jaci Krandel, Steve Wenzel, and Chair Erica Poremba. Nays: None. Absentees: Lauri Kacmar. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howie  
Chief Deputy Clerk