

**MINUTES  
CITY OF WOODSTOCK  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

June 4, 2020  
City Council Chambers

A Regular Meeting of the City of Woodstock Environmental Commission was called to order by Co-Chairperson Steve Wenzel at 5:32 PM on Thursday, June 4, 2020 virtually, via Zoom webinar due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Pritzker's stay-at-home mandate.

A roll call was taken.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:** Ed Ellinghausen, Laurie Kacmar, Bill Donato, and Co-Chair Steve Wenzel.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chairperson Erica Poremba.

**STAFF PRESENT VIRTUALLY:** Public Works Department Director Jeff Van Landuyt and Executive Assistant/Chief Deputy City Clerk Jane Howie.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

The Minutes from the March 5, 2020 Regular Meeting will be on the next meeting's agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment forthcoming.

**COMMISSION COMMENT:** None.

**TRANSMITTALS**

1. None

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Restorative Efforts at Community Gardens Site – Pathway?

In response to a question from S. Wenzel, J. Van Landuyt said Melissa from The Land Conservancy was going to have herbicide applied before adding ground cover at the gardens. B. Donato mentioned that there's a pathway on one side of the site that starts at the stream and heads into the woods; however, there's some invasive species in the area. He believes the path could be connected to the garden area. S. Wenzel said the Commissioners should decide where best to locate a path that would travel near interesting features. However, he agreed with J. Van Landuyt that the path should wait until The Land Conservancy's work is completed

2. Follow-up on plans Commission had for Arbor Day

S. Wenzel stated that the Arbor Day tree planting event had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Commissioners agreed with the suggestion to wait until McHenry County reaches Phase 4 before planning a tree planting event. S. Wenzel said he'd contact The Land Conservancy on the availability on obtaining trees for this event.

3. Community Garden season planned events for year

S. Wenzel suggested waiting until we reach Phase 4 before deciding on any events. It was mentioned that thirty-seven garden plots have been rented for the season with nineteen gardeners. E. Ellinghausen said he'll have materials for a larger garden; he asked if it would be too late to build it and install it yet this season. In response, J. Van Landuyt said they don't have soil available, but they can get more. There was some discussion about getting a compost pile/site started, which could be used for the gardeners. B. Donato said perhaps the City/Commissioners could donate garden plots along with produce to families in need. E. Ellinghausen said he had a conversation with an organizer of the 4-H Club, about perhaps getting people involved that could donate the veggies to those in need. L. Kacmar opined that perhaps a master game plan could include both the donation of plots and the donation of the goods. Commissioners agreed with that suggestion.

J. Van Landuyt said he'd email an aerial photo of the property so that some further decisions can be made such as the addition of a shed or a gazebo, etc. S. Wenzel asked when the Commission can hold a meeting in person. J. Van Landuyt said this can happen now as long as social distancing is observed and/or masks are worn.

Chair E. Poremba arrived at 5:47 PM. S. Wenzel updated her on what's been discussed so far. S. Wenzel said he's going to follow-up with TLC on tree availability. E. Ellinghausen said he has hundreds of white oak trees, which he offered, if there's interest. S. Wenzel said he'd check with Melissa at TLC to find out if the white oaks would work in that area. He added that TLC has a drone, so perhaps they can take footage and get some good photos of the garden site for the Commissioners. In response to a question from Chair Poremba, J. Van Landuyt said Public Works hasn't received any calls about any problems with the water availability at the garden site; he believes it's working okay. E. Poremba said she stopped at the site on Monday and there were about six gardeners there. They told her they were loving it! The gardeners own Facebook page is named "Woodstock Community Greens and Gardens, Woodstock, IL." E. Poremba said their FB page recently shared some great information about cicadas.

Chair Poremba suggested pushing the plastic straws project off until this fall or even waiting until 2021. S. Wenzel shared information about Spain single-use plastics and their desire to ban the manufacturing and use. In response to a question, J. Van Landuyt said the Styrofoam recycling center may be starting up again on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. None

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Update of Environmental Master Plan – begin September 2020
2. Plastic Straws – Invite speaker in July – develop ordinance in fall of 2020
3. Ellinghausen Brine Study Update

J. Van Landuyt said Public Works is still deciding how best to move forward with the brine. They have some additional research to do to find out how best to use the product. E. Poremba suggested that Commissioners read through the Environmental Plan and get ideas of what to tackle next. She said there are a lot of great things going on and we need to be prepared and get on the same page. She asked Mr. Van Landuyt to email a copy of

the Plan to all Commissioners. Chair Poremba gave kudos to J. Van Landuyt for all his work and the work of Public Works.

The Commissioners agreed that they'd like to meet at the garden site in the next few weeks.

**ADJOURN: To a Regular Meeting Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 5:30 PM**

Motion by L. Kacmar, second by E. Ellinghausen, to adjourn this regular meeting of the Environmental Commission to the next regular meeting on Thursday, June 4, 2020. Ayes: E. Ellinghausen, L. Kacmar, B. Donato, S. Wenzel, and Chair E. Poremba. Nays: none. Abstentions: none. Absentees: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howie,  
Chief Deputy City Clerk