

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2024**  
**MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**VILLAGE HALL 6101 CAPULINA, MORTON GROVE, IL 60053**

- 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/ Roll Call:** Pursuant to proper notice in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the regular meeting of the Environment and Natural Resources Commission was called to order at 6:02 PM. Georgie Brunner called the role.

Commissioners Present: Kim Moldofsky, Andrew Hoffman, Mark Werwath, Georgie Brunner, Tariq Puthawala, Volha Liston, Jenny Cleary

Commissioners Absent: Sarah Tag, Ibrahim Khan

Village Staff Present: Chuck Meyer, Mike Lukich

Guest: Jason Lawfer

- 2. Approval of Minutes:**

Chairperson Brunner proceeded to seek approval of the August 5, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Moldofsky moved to approve the minutes seconded by Commissioner Werwath.  
Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote.

- 3. Chair Comments**

Chairperson Brunner welcomed the commission. She thanked all the volunteers for their help at the Sustainability Expo. The event was a huge success and we received lots of positive feedback. Thank you to all the Village staff who helped put this together.

- 4. Staff Reports:**

Mike Lukich, Director of Public Works, presented the following report:

**Water Strategies:**

- Cameron Avenue Water Main Replacement – 600' work begins.
- Annual water leak survey has been completed. 14 new leaks have been pinpointed through this and have been repaired.

**Air Strategies:**

- 294 homes have installed solar panels.

**Energy Strategies**

- North Pumping Station – Soliciting design proposal for Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) conversion for Pump #2
- Commissioner Werwath is working with Village staff on Benchmarking – Village Facilities.

**Land Strategies:**

- Bids are being received for the enhance open space near the Metra station. Construction begins October 14 and groundbreaking October 23.

**Waste Strategies:**

- Groot annual yard waste/ Food Scrap program is ongoing.
- Food Scrap Program – WasteNot- 102 residents signed up.

- Thank you to both for being sponsors for the Expo

Commissioners began a discussion about trying to bring a community composting program to the Village comparable to what the Village of Skokie has. Chuck Meyer, Village Administrator, answered questions about budgeting for something like this and logistics of trying to bring this to the Village.

## 5. Programs and Events:

- Reminder to send weekly e-news articles.
- Expo Recap:
  - Very successful event. Commission was happy with the turnout and excited to keep it growing. Discussion for next year would be to improve ways to keep track of guest count.
- Pumpkin Smash November 2, 2024.
  - Commissioner Moldofsky wanted to inquire if it would be ok for Go Green Morton Grove to have a table at the event promoting composting.
- Tree Ordinance overview by Chuck Meyer, Village Administrator
  - The Ordinance establishes certain regulations relating to tree preservation on public property and tree protection during construction on public and private property.
  - The Ordinance clarifies public tree removal procedures, enhance tree protection requirements. Establishes landscape and tree preservation plan requirements.
  - Tree fund to be created. A fee will be assessed to anyone who removes a tree that is 12" or more and that money will be put into a fund to plant more trees in the Village. A 12" tree is used as the benchmark for this as that seems to be the median size of most mature trees in the Village.
  - Commissioner Clearly asked what a nuisance tree is. Chuck Meyer responded that when it comes to a nuisance tree, the Village code defines it as a dead or dying tree or a hazardous tree. A tree cannot be considered a nuisance because of the inconvenience it brings to residents.
  - Commissioner Brunner wanted to clarify that when it comes to trees on private property, the Village is very limited on what it can impose on residents and their private property.
  - The Ordinance cleaned up the Village's codification of invasive plants and has now deferred to the Chicago Botanic Garden to identify these plants.
  - The ordinance allows the building commissioner to include in the building permit process identifying the tree landscape of properties that are requesting various permits and regulate the removal of select trees on select properties, with exemptions provided for certain conditions outside the control of the property owner.
  - Jason Lawfer, a guest at the meeting, reviewed the proposed Tree Ordinance and wanted to bring the commission's attention items that are missing from the ordinance:
    - a. Statement of value – a simple statement that says the Village values trees as part of its infrastructure.

- b. An appeal process is missing providing a procedure to appeal an ordinance violation.
- c. A requirement for contracted tree maintenance. Does the Village have any requirement from contractors working on private properties who may come to remove trees?
  - o Chuck Meyer, Village Administrator, responded by saying that his two second points are addressed in other aspects of the Village Code. As for the statement of value, this can be included by taking the fourth “where as” clause in the ordinance and codifying it as recommended by Commissioner Moldofsky.
  - o Georgie Brunner asked for a motion to approve the Tree Ordinance as presented with the inclusion of the statement of value. Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman and seconded by Commissioner Cleary. The commission’s recommendations have been approved.

**6. Other Business - none**

**7. Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Moldofsky shared some comments. She recommends some onboarding information for members so they know how and who to bring up recommendations for the agenda.
- Jayson Lawfer had a comment to include in the tree ordinance some kind of protection for residents who plant trees but want to remove it many years later. Chuck Meyer said the Village will look into the logistics of keeping records for trees planted on private property.

**8. Next Meeting:**

Monday October 7, 2024

**9. Audience Comments: None**

**10. Adjournment:**

Hearing no further comments, Commissioner Werwath moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Puthawala.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm by unanimous voice vote.

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Minutes By: Saba Koya