

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2025,
MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION (ENRC)
VILLAGE HALL 6101 CAPULINA, MORTON GROVE, IL 60053**

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/ Roll Call:** Pursuant to proper notice and 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. Chairperson Georgie Brunner called the role.

Commissioners Present: Georgie Brunner, Andrew Hoffman, Ibrahim Khan, Volha Liston, Kim Moldofsky, Tariq Puthawala

Commissioners Absent: Jenny Cleary, Sarah Tag

Village Staff Present: Zoe Heidorn

Guests: None

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Chairperson Brunner proceeded to seek approval of the December 2, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Hoffman moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Moldofsky. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.
3. **Chair Comments:** Chairperson Brunner welcomed the Commission. She thanked everyone for their contributions over the past year and thanked the Village for consistently recognizing the work of the Commission. She welcomed Zoe Heidorn, who will permanently replace Terry Liston as staff liaison to the Commission in June 2025.
4. **Staff Report:** Mike Lukich, Director of Public Works, was absent from the meeting, so the Commission decided to review the updates from Public Works at the next meeting.
5. **Programs and Events:**
 - **Earth Month Activities:** Ms. Heidorn said that the Village's Earth Month newsletter was planned to reach resident mailboxes by the end of March, in advance of Earth Month in April. The Commissioners discussed how best to disseminate information from the Commission and related to sustainability, including through the newsletter, weekly e-News, and social media channels. They discussed the possibility of expanding communications to include texting. Ms. Heidorn noted that she started a new "Did You Know?" series focusing on sustainability for Instagram, Facebook, and the e-News, and encouraged the Commissioners to send content.
 - **Community Clean-Up Program:** Ms. Heidorn reported that the one-day Community Clean-Up Event will be transitioned to a broader clean-up program that would be available to residents throughout the year. Staff plans to launch the new program during Earth Month. The Commissioners discussed the logistics of a clean-up program and suggested reaching out to the schools to participate. They agreed on the importance of encouraging clean-up in a group setting and that broadening the program will help create longer-term stewardship in the community.
 - **Crayon Recycling:** Ms. Heidorn said that there will be no significant change to this year's crayon recycling program, which typically begins in April and runs through early summer. Commissioner Moldofsky said that she is willing to reuse or repurpose any markers that residents drop off at Village Hall. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of accepting other types of products for recycling at Village Hall and promoting other recycling services.
 - **Morton Grove Greener Business Awards:** Ms. Heidorn said that the Village would begin accepting applications for the 2025 Greener Business Awards in March. The applicants would be reviewed by the Economic Development Commission, which would make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees at their second April meeting. Last year, four applicants received an award.
 - **2025 Events:** The Commissioners reviewed the 2025 event calendar, which includes SWANCC's Document Destruction & Electronics Recycling Event on May 10, the annual Tree Walk, the Sustainability

Expo on September 13, and the Pumpkin Smash in November. They discussed scheduling the Tree Walk on the same day as the Expo, which might help increase participation. The Commissioners agreed that hosting the Pumpkin Smash on the Saturday immediately following Halloween would be best.

6. Other Business:

- **Tree Ordinance:** Ms. Heidorn reported that staff is developing communications to commercial and residential property owners to inform them of new tree ordinance requirements for tree removal and qualifying construction projects. The Commissioners discussed the process for removing trees in the public parkway and notification to residents. The Commissioners also discussed the 50/50 Tree Planting Program, possibly providing assistance to low-income residents who cannot afford the cost share, and the logistics of verifying low-income eligibility.
- **CRTI Urban and Community Forest Grant:** Ms. Heidorn reported that the Village was awarded \$25,000 for public tree planting in Morton Grove. She said that next steps include the Village entering into an agreement with the CRTI and Morton Arboretum for use of the funds and planning for the tree plantings in 2025 and 2026. The Commissioners discussed how planting locations were selected and prioritized by Public Works Forestry staff.

7. Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Hoffman asked about the possibility of hiring a Sustainability Coordinator. Ms. Heidorn responded that Village staffing is incredibly lean and considering the current administrative staff size, a Sustainability Coordinator, even part-time, would unfortunately not be next in line if positions were to be added. She said that the position would be considered in the future and that incorporating sustainability principles and objectives into Village functions could be considered as part of future job descriptions.
- Commissioner Hoffman asked about the possibility of the Board implementing an all-in community-wide composting service, noting that Highland Park recently adopted this service. The Commissioners discussed the program and whether an additional fee for composting would be accepted by residents. They noted that WasteNot Compost currently only has over a hundred participants enrolled.
- Commissioner Moldofsky said that she wants the Village to set up a community compost drop-off at Village Hall, similar to Skokie's compost drop-off. Ms. Heidorn said that she would look into the request and logistics with staff. The Commissioners discussed the benefits of composting and public education.
- Commissioner Moldofsky thanked Ms. Terry Liston for her years of service to the Commission and all her hard work toward their projects and programs. The Commissioners echoed Commissioner Moldofsky's comments.
- Commissioner Liston asked whether there were any programs for disposal of her Amazon boxes and whether the Village could restrict Amazon's packaging sizes. Ms. Heidorn said she was not aware of any program for box reuse, but that she would look into it. She also clarified that the Village does not regulate packaging and shipping container sizes or quantities. The Commissioners talked about reducing waste and packaging, manufactured obsolescence, and encouraging the repair of

8. Next Meeting: Monday, April 7, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

9. Audience Comments: None

10. Adjournment: Hearing no further comments, Commissioner Moldofsky moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Liston. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM by unanimous voice vote.

Minutes By: Zoe Heidorn