



Environment and Natural Resources Commission Agenda and Meeting Notice

Monday, April 6, 2026 - 6:00 PM

2nd Floor Scanlon Conference Room, 6101 Capulina Morton Grove, Illinois 60053

1. **CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ROLL CALL**
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – February 2, 2026
3. **CHAIR COMMENTS**
4. **UPDATED STAFF REPORT**
5. **PROGRAMS & EVENTS**
 - a. **Earth Month Activities**
 - Earth Hour (March 28, 2026)
 - Ecoship Campaign
 - Greener Morton Grove Award Program
 - Newsletter
 - b. **Landscaping Regulations & Best Practices Guide**
 - c. **Sustainability Expo – Saturday, September 19, 2026 (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)**
 - d. **Adopt-A-Block Program** – <https://www.mortongroveil.org/adopt-a-block/> (16 signed up, 10 picked up)
 - e. **2026 Events**

Arbor Day Tree Planting	TBD
Document Destruction & Electronics Recycling Event	Saturday, May 9, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Tree Walk	Saturday, September 19, 2026, 10:15 a.m.
Sustainability Expo (https://www.mortongroveil.org/enrcexpo)	Saturday, September 19, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Pumpkin Smash	Saturday, November 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- f. **Communications:** E-News, Facebook & Instagram (Did You Know?), newsletters, postcards
6. **OTHER BUSINESS**
 - a. **2026 ENRC Meeting Schedule**
 - Monday, June 1, at 6:00 p.m.
 - Monday, August 3, at 6:00 p.m.
 - Monday, October 5, at 6:00 p.m.
 - Monday, December 7, at 6:00 p.m.
7. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
8. **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**
9. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2, 2026,
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 roll:

Commissioners Present: Georgie Brunner, Volha Liston, Kim Moldofsky, Sarah Tag (6:15 p.m.)

Commissioners Absent: Andrew Hoffman (with notice), Ibrahim Khan, Tariq Puthawala;

Village Staff Present: Zoe Heidorn, Mike Lukich

Guests: None

- 2. Chair Comments:** Chairperson Brunner said that she wants to remind the Commissioners that the Commission is a working group. Staff availability to work toward Commission projects is limited, so it is important that Commissioners are able and willing to contribute time and effort toward Commission goals and projects.
- 3. Staff Report:** Zoe Heidorn reviewed the updated staff report, which was revised by staff to better reflect the goals outlined in the Village's adopted Sustainability Plan. The report now lists all Plan goals and connects current strategies to those goals. The Commissioners said that they appreciated the update and understood the purpose of the changes. Ms. Heidorn noted that the former staff report generated by the Public Works Department was effective but did not reflect all current Village projects with ties to the Sustainability Plan, so it was more appropriate to generate the report from Administration.
- 4. Programs & Events:** Chairperson Brunner mentioned the new SharePoint document sharing platform that Ms. Heidorn shared with the Commissioners earlier. The site is intended to provide a working space for current Commission projects, including materials related to the Sustainability Expo, the Greener Morton Grove Awards, and the landscaping brochure. Ms. Heidorn said that she hoped everyone was able to access the shared site. She said that if anyone had any problems, to let her know and that she could connect them with the Village's IT Director to provide support.

Commissioner Moldofsky asked if there is any issue with the Open Meetings Act in multiple individuals working in the documents at the same time. Ms. Heidorn said that she would provide guidance on working in the documents and asked that there would be no discussion in the documents, and to limit active work in a document to no more than two people to avoid conflict. Ms. Heidorn thanked Commissioner Moldofsky for the note.

Chairperson Brunner asked if the Commissioners had any comments related to the Greener Morton Grove Awards guidelines and the landscaping brochure. The Commissioners discussed comments previously issued by Commissioner Moldofsky and Commissioner Hoffman. Chairperson Brunner asked the other Commissioners to review the documents and provide comments to her, Ms. Heidorn, or directly to the SharePoint site.

Greener Morton Grove Awards: Commissioner Moldofsky asked if staff could install a banner highlighting the Greener Morton Grove Awards program at the Dempster Corridor Plan workshop on March 19. Ms. Heidorn said that she could certainly put together some banners and install them at select Village banner locations and at the upcoming workshop. Commissioner Moldofsky said that the Neighborhood Outreach Meetings are well attended and a great opportunity to share ENRC programming. Chairperson Brunner asked about possibly advertising the programs at other locations in Morton Grove, such as the Public Library and Prairie View Community Center operated by the Park District.

Chairperson Brunner asked what type of award the Commission would like to hand out. Ms. Heidorn said that the Economic Development Commission (EDC) would hand out a certificate and a native plant from Menards. Commissioner Tag said that the Commission should not buy plants from Menards because there are many better options out there. She added that the plant might just go to waste anyway. Commissioner Moldofsky agreed that a certificate is just fine. The Commissioners discussed landscape stakes, but noted that these tend to be plastic.

Chairperson Brunner said that the Commission was pretty set for the award program. She said that she would dig up some certificate samples and add these to the SharePoint site.

Potential Program Partner: Ms. Heidorn reported to the Commissioners that she had meeting with a representative of EnergySense, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is headquartered in Chicago and works with different municipalities to support and implement their sustainability programming. Typical projects and programs relate to efficient electric, heating, and cooling, water use, and clean energy. They have worked with Evanston, Oak Park, and Skokie, and currently operate Skokie's green awards program. Ms. Heidorn said that partnering with the organization would be by contract and would come at a significant cost. She said that the organization offered to help identify grants that might cover programs and possibly offer a low-cost workshop for businesses or residents.

Landscaping & Resources Guide: Chairperson Brunner asked if there were any questions or comments about the draft guide prepared by Ms. Heidorn. They discussed that Commissioner Hoffman provided some comments in SharePoint and reviewed his comments. Commissioner Brunner said that it might be unrealistic to ask landscapers to use electric blowers and mowers.

Commissioner Tag said that it might be good to mention that pollinators that are in decline may be injured by blowing and leaf removal activities. They agreed that reminding residents about not using blowers during summer months would be beneficial. Commissioner Brunner said that we should encourage people to go electric with their leaf blowers, at a minimum.

Mr. Lukich said that a resident complained that he can't put his leaves under bushes because he thought they harbored rodents. Commissioner Moldofsky said that we should provide education to residents encouraging them to not put leaves next to the home or other structures, but in designated areas or mulching beds. Commissioner Tag said to add a note about designating areas for leaves. Chairperson Brunner said that we should also encourage leaf mulching.

Commissioner Moldofsky said that she heard Trustee Thill tell residents to not put anything but leaves in the leaf piles, but that she sees residents putting other materials and they get picked up. Mr. Lukich says that it used to be the case that everything got picked up, but the Village pays by the pound for debris collected and disposed, so staff now hangs a tag on a noncompliant resident's door. Public Works has started sending earlier messaging to residents that the Village only accepts leaves. Landscapers are saving money by not accepting debris. The Village is paying to haul the leaves off, so the Village is subsidizing landscapers' work. The Building Department will now provide a notice of violation in the next year, hopefully. Sometimes, staff decides to just pick up the debris later in the year because that debris will end up in the sewer system or cause flooding.

Chairperson Brunner said that she has seen people put out landscaping and garden debris at the end of the growing season. She said that people used to burn leaves. Mr. Lukich said that leaf management has improved. It's hard to measure because it's weight-based and rain may make the leaves heavier, but staff notes that people have gotten better. Commissioner Tag asked for clarification on the disposal of sticks in her garden.

Commissioner Moldofsky asked about the parkway and whether we can encourage native plantings. Ms. Heidorn said that the code currently says that only turf and trees are allowed, and it would be difficult to issue guidelines in conflict with our code. She added that staff will typically not request removal of native landscaping on parkways provided it does not cause visibility or maintenance issues.

Ms. Heidorn said that a project that is needed and relevant to the Commission is an updated landscape code. She said that she could create a working document in SharePoint for the Commission's review. Chairperson Brunner said that all municipalities have their codes available online. She encouraged the Commissioners to send examples to the SharePoint site for discussion at future meetings. She reminded the Commission that they are advisory, so they should help assemble recommendations for the Board.

Earth Month Activities: Chairperson Brunner said that Earth Hour would be a great activity for Earth Month this year, and she recommends that the Village Board issues a proclamation. The organization can provide an image during for comparison. Ms. Heidorn said that this is a great and achievable idea, and that she'd work with Chairperson Brunner to implement.

Chairperson asked if there were any other ideas for Earth Month. Ms. Heidorn said that she had connected to Ecoship and signed up for a used material collection campaign. The collection boxes will be at Village Hall during the month of April.

Chairperson Brunner asked if we can recycle the "Did You Know?" content for the website. Ms. Heidorn discussed the update of the Village website. She said that the Village's new sustainability page could feature these ideas and recommendations.

Commission Events: Chairperson Brunner said that they have the Sustainability Expo coming up in September. Ms. Heidorn said that Commissioner Moldofsky reached out to ask if the Village could move the date due to Rosh Hashanah. They discussed and said that moving the date to September 19 would be best. Chairperson Brunner asked about how to best divvy up the work to do outreach for the Sustainability Expo. The Commissioners discussed dividing tasks.

Ms. Heidorn said that she has a spreadsheet in SharePoint showing all past exhibitors and people staff had reached out to. Chairperson Brunner said that she would propose a structure for distributing the work for everyone this month.

Chairperson Brunner asked about the Document Destruction & Electronics Recycling Event and whether volunteers would be needed. They discussed safety concerns. If there were to be volunteers, they would need to stand behind the curb but they could pass out flyers to vehicles. Commissioner Moldofsky said that the handout should be no bigger than a postcard.

They discussed the Pumpkin Smash in November and decided on November 7 as the date for 2026.

Chairperson Brunner said that they should send any communications to Ms. Heidorn and she will post to the Village's social media channels.

5. **Next Meeting:** Monday, April 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM.
6. **Audience Comments:** None
7. **Adjournment:** Hearing no further comments, Commissioner Tag moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moldofsky and approved by a unanimous voice vote at 6:57 p.m.

Minutes By: Zoe Heidorn