

**CITY OF WARRENVILLE
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
City Gallery
at City Hall, 28W701 Stafford Place, Warrenville**

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Kauth called the meeting to order at 7:23 pm

B. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Jean Marie Kauth, Commissioner Terri Basch, Commissioner Cecelia Gerber, Commissioner Bob Kanara, Commissioner Kathy Franke, and Staff Liaison David Romero

Not present: City Council Liaison Kathy Davalos

Also Present: Kay Halpin from WIB and Judy Duvall

C. APPROVAL OF MARCH 21, 2023 MINUTES (PDF):

A motion was made by Commissioner Kanera to approve the minutes from March 2023; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Basch and was approved unanimously.

D. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

- Kay Halpin reported that WIB will be able to take credit cards at the Arbor Day Event for purchasing items from WIB and for the Magnolia seedling raffle and silent auction.
- Additionally, Kay Halpin and Judy Duvall are questioning the availability of grants for native vegetation to plant around the retention pond at Warrenville Lakes which has poor water quality and significant erosion. Staff Liaison Romero researched the DuPage County Water Quality Improvement website which makes grants available, but the application deadline has passed. All will investigate other possible resources for funding.

E. OFFICIALS AND STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS (PDF)

- City Council Liaison Davolos apologized via submitted note for not being present tonight and for not being able to attend the Arbor Day Event due to a pre-planned trip.
- Commissioner Gerber will be renewing her term of office.
- Commissioner Basch has agreed to take over the Chair position as Chair Kauth will be stepping down from chair but will continue as a commissioner.

F. BUSINESS OF MEETING

1. Sorting and Packaging of Battery Recycling
Two boxes were sorted prior to the meeting being called to order.
2. Consideration of continuation of the Battery Recycling Program Staff Liaison Romero reported that “The Big Green Box” will no longer be taking batteries for recycling, but he has found a new service provider, “Cirba Solutions” which will

be slightly more expensive than The Big Green Box, but still within the EAC budget, so he has ordered them. After some discussion about the merits of recycling alkaline batteries, it was decided that the benefits outweigh the negatives, so all present agreed that the battery recycling program should continue.

3. 2023 Arbor Day Planning

- Chair Kauth reported on all the groups that have tables reserved. She has made some educational flyers which staff Liaison Romero will be printing.
- The trees will arrive approximately 1 week early, and the EAC will need to follow up with keeping them moist.
- Commissioner Kanera will bring coffee cans for the raffle/silent auction, and he will bring the bags and buckets for the trees.
- Everyone will arrive at 8:00 am for set up.
- Chair Kauth will check again with the High School Environmental Group to confirm that they will be attending to help.
- The gifts for the raffles were received.
- Staff Liaison Romero will be getting the food due to a city requirement.
- Staff Liaison Romero shared the bad news that a ground hog found and gravely damaged the Magnolia seedlings at the nursery propagating them. With discussion, it was decided that there could no longer be a raffle and silent auction for the seedlings. At the Arbor Day Event the seedlings will be offered to anyone willing to attempt to save them. The healthiest seedling options will still be gifted to Emily Larson and mayor Lund if possible.
- Lastly, there will be no “suggestion box” available at the Arbor Day Event upon the request of City Administration.

4. Discussion of “No Mow May” or “No Mow ‘til Mother’s Day”

- The EAC feels it would be valuable to move forward with some education for City Council on the value of allowing weeds and grasses to grow uncut into May for pollinators. A resolution modeled from other communities already implementing this policy could be drafted saying only that fees for code violation would be waived for the specified period for any voluntary participation.
- Staff Liaison Romero remarked that signage would be necessary.
- Commissioner Kanara has done research on how other cities have implemented this. He found a website that has signs available to be printed off the website: beecityusa.org/no-mow-may. Commissioner Kanara will take the lead and EAC will plan for a presentation to the City Council next spring.

G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS

- Commissioner Gerber, Commissioner Basch, Chair Kauth, and Staff Liaison Romero attended a plastics reduction brainstorming event sponsored by the League of Women Voters on Friday April 7. Each participated in separate “break-out” groups.
- Chair Kauth shared that her session discussed the merits of a “tax” on plastic bags rather than a “ban” and highlighted the importance of beginning such an initiative at the County level.
- Commissioner Basch met with environmental commissioners from other cities and now has contact information from them.

- Commissioner Gerber's group discussed that Naperville will never go for a plastics reduction plan and if they as the largest community won't do it, then the only way to be successful is with a county wide initiative or a ballot measure. Kay from SCARCE is going to sponsor another future "round table discussion" to keep the conversation going.

H. ADJOURN

Commissioner Gerber made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Kanara seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Commissioner Franke