

**CITY OF WARRENVILLE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**  
**City Gallery**  
**at City Hall, 28W701 Stafford Place, Warrenville**

**MINUTES**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Basch called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Terri Basch, Commissioner Bob Kanara, Commissioner Cecilia Gerber, Commissioner Kathy Franke, Council Liaison Kathy Davolos and Staff liaison David Romero  
Absent: Commissioner Jean-Marie Kauth (JMK)

**C. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 20, 2022 MINUTES (PDF)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Franke to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Kanara, and passed unanimously.

**D. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

City official Deborah Swinden forwarded an article on Batavia and their single use plastic bag ordinance from the Chicago Tribune for the commission to see. A discussion followed about the process to have the council consider a single use plastic ordinance. Staff Liaison (SL) Romero reminded the commission that the single use plastic ordinance is not in the City's FY 2024 Work Plan. October is the beginning of planning for the FY 2025 budget year and that is the time to try to include it in the work plan.

**E. OFFICIALS AND STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS (PDF)**

Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) John Cumpek asked Building Code Official (BCO) Michelle Lilley, if the City has an official stance on "No Mow May". (CEO) Cumpek gave mowing violations last year to a couple of residents who indicated that they were participating in "No Mow May". It was explained to them the City's ordinance requirements regarding the mowing of their property. (CEO) Cumpek this year noticed residents in nearby communities with signs in their yards signaling their participation in "No Mow May". (CEO) Cumpek requested that the City's social media sites be used to inform the resident's the City's current stance on "No Mow May" and the City's ordinance requirements.

(SL) Romero met with (BCO) Lilley to share EAC's work plan initiative of "No Mow May" and confirmed that an ordinance has not been passed adopting the program. (BCO) Lilley found research against "No Mow May" and wanted to bring it to the attention of the commission. (SL) Romero will be e-mailing the commission the research found by (BCO) Lilley.

"No Mow May" is currently on EAC's FY 2024 Work Plan that started May 1<sup>st</sup>. (SL) Romero explained the process of getting an initiative to be adopted as an ordinance or resolution. The research and recommendation of an initiative can be prompted by either City Council or Staff to a City commission, or a City commission can research an initiative and provide a recommendation to City Council and Staff. In either situation, a memorandum is first submitted to City staff for review, then placed on a Committee of the Whole agenda. If the initiative is recommended at the

Committee of the Whole meeting, it proceeds to a City Council for approval.

Research for the initiative would provide scientific data and data from participating communities. The memorandum would consist of background information, supporting evidence, and a recommendation to City Council and Staff.

Council Liaison Davolos reported the City is working on having a safe bike route along Rt. 59 and along Mack Rd. The south side is owned by the DuPage County Forest Preserve and they are not allowing the bike path to be on their side, therefore the path will need to be located on the north side Mack Rd. The City will need to obtain easements for the path on the north side of Mack Rd. The 10 feet wide bike route is part of the bike and pedestrian plan that the City is implementing.

## **F. BUSINESS OF MEETING**

### 1. 2023 Arbor Day Wrap Up

Commissioner Kauth wrote a document summarizing Arbor Day 2023 and included ideas for next year. Chair Basch suggested to use biodegradable pouches for the samplings. People seem to prefer shrubs rather than large trees. Commissioner Gerber noticed that we had ran out of reusable shopping bags and that we could consider giving out reusable plastic bottles instead of water bottles, and providing water in a tank with paper cups. The food was adequate. Cereal bars were the most popular item followed by donuts. Cut one gallon of orange juice, one bag of bagels and one plain cream cheese. Have one commissioner located with the food and giving out raffle tickets, and a second commissioner located with the door prizes. Have a sign with instructions and drawing time. Place the door prizes table closer to the entry.

Magnolia Trees seedlings: Volunteers have taken them to see if they sprout.

Kay Halpin 5

Cecilia Gerber 4

Jim Halama 5

Bob Kanara 5

Major Lund 25

### 2. Planning for EAC booths at Multicultural Festival, Summer Daze, and 4<sup>th</sup> of July

Chair Basch will reach out to Warrenville Park District staff to inquire the possibility of EAC setting up a booth at the events. The first event, the Multicultural Festival, is on June 10, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Staff Liaison Romero will work on a poster with the EAC logo to fold over the edge of the table. The commission will hand out shopping bags and educational sheets on caring for the environment.

### 3. Discussion of “Now Mow May” or “No Mow ‘til Mother’s Day”

Commissioner Kanara and Chair Basch will gather information on the initiative and draft a memorandum. One possible solution could be for the Mayor to make a proclamation that the enforcement will be suspended during May; for those who voluntarily decide not to mow their lawn. The background information needs to be both scientific and information about what other municipalities are doing.

### 4. Discussion of Annual Ferry Creek Stream Clean-Up

The event begins at 9 a.m. Commissioner Kanara and Gerber will meet up at Kiwanis Park, located at the corner of Meadow and Home Avenue.

### 5. Discussion of Greenest Region Compact

(SL) Romero will be meeting with Connie Schmidt from the Sierra Club and a

representative of the League of Women Voters to discuss plastic and climate issues and learn about what other communities are doing. Warrenville never adopted the Greenest Region compact and (SL) Romero plans to discuss with City staff and the EAC about endorsing it.

**G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS**

Chair Basch plans to prepare a sustainability report for the City of Warrenville as part of her master thesis within the next year.

**H. ADJOURN**

Commissioner Gerber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM p.m. seconded by Commissioner Kauth, which was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Commissioner Gerber