

**WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 12, 2022**

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Environmental and Forestry Commission of the Village of Winnetka, which was held virtually via Zoom Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.; Voting Members present: Chairperson Chuck Dowding, Commissioners Roseann Park-Jones, Ted Wynnychenko, Liz Kunkle, and Patrick Hanley. Voting Members absent: Commissioners David Varca and Barry Sylvester. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative present: Kim Mancini. Student Representatives present: none. Student Representatives absent: Scarlett Harper and Marcus Buccellato. Staff Representative present: Diana Puga, Public Works Analyst. Public present: none.

**1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:**

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and welcomed all Commission members and the public. Staff Representative Puga took roll call for attendance.

**2) Public Comment:**

President Chris Rintz was in attendance and provided several public comments. President Rintz informed the Commissioners he was attending the meeting as a check-in for the upcoming year, as he tries to do with each of the Commissions, Committees, or Boards. He commended the EFC for its work on the Sustainability Chapter for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

President Rintz discussed power generation, timelines, and relationship with IMEA. The agreement we currently have with IMEA to generate power at request dates to the mid 2000's. This is an important relationship and one we have been able to maximize because we own our facilities. He also explained that the Village took on a 25–30-year obligation and underwrote it with bonds and the debt runs through 2035 as does the agreement. He further explained that if we were to terminate relationship with IMEA, we would still be on the hook for the debt 2035.

President Rintz shared with the EFC that its role is to advise Village Council, the role of the EFC needs to be an advisory resource for the Council. He also informed the EFC of upcoming projects that Council will be relying on it to assist with, such as finding ways to fund initiatives and technical assistance.

Commissioner Kunkle inquired if it would be appropriate to host a study session with Village Council and give residents the opportunity to understand the complexity of the situation with

IMEA and power generation. President Rintz responded that it would not be the best venue, as the discussion would be more of a report of existing conditions than a policy discussion.

After a conversation with Water & Electric Director, Brian Keys, Trustee Liaison Mancini shared the following transcript:

“IMEA has taken action to address the Vistra contract ending on May 31, 2022. The agency has entered into agreement for 50 MW of non-carbon emitting generation from Exelon (4 year contract) and 50 MW of solar capacity from Prairie Wolf Solar project (5 year contract). The agency has also entered into a one year “transition” contract with Vistra. Vistra will be supplying power to the agency from the market.”

### **3) Review and Approval of Minutes:**

#### a) Approval of the December Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the December 8, 2021, minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Wynnychenko and seconded by Commissioner Hanley.

AYES: PARK-JONES, WYNNYCHENKO, KUNKLE, HANLEY  
ABSENT: VARCA, SYLVESTER  
NAYS: NONE

### **4) New Business, Old Business/Updates:**

#### a) Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Climate Action Plan (CAP)

##### i) Municipal Resolution Endorsing the 2021 CAP for the Chicago Region

Commissioner Kunkle presented the materials that have been prepared for the Chicago Action Plan (CAP) resolution that was slated to be discussed during the February 1<sup>st</sup> Village Council Meeting.

The presentation provides history on the progression from the Greenest Region Compact 2 (GRC2) the CAP. The presentation is broken down into three parts:

Part 1: Provides history and background on the GRC2 which was introduced in 2017, adopted by the Village Council in 2018 and directed the EFC on how to work through the framework. In 2019, the EFC reported results of the examination back to Council and recommended Council identify 3 out of the 10 focus areas as priority for the village to focus in and ultimately selected waste, water, and energy.

Part 2: In July 2021, the CAP was released which encompasses two goals: net zero greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and persistent, equitable climate adaptation (adaptation).

Part 3: The CAP is an updated framework of the GRC2 with suggested objectives and strategies and also demonstrates how the CAP reprioritizes the GRC2 focus areas.

The Commissioners provided some recommendations including limiting the amount of text included in each slide, providing more explanation on how we got from GRC to GRC2 to CAP – want the presentation to make council feel confident in their decision, and suggested the information be shared for the agenda packet in full but to have more concise slides during the presentation.

b) 2040 Comprehensive Plan

i) Integration Climate Action Plan/CEJA w/Winnetka Sustainability Chapter

ii) Additional Long-Term Goals

In the interest of time, the Commissioners agreed to table the discussion of additional long-term goals until the February meeting.

c) Sustainable Materials Management

i) Materials Management Advisory Committee Recommendations

No report or discussion

**5) Communications:**

a) Approval of January Communication Items

The Commissioners reviewed the Communication Items which include EFC Green Awards Application, Reducing Energy Use and Costs in your Home and Business, Switching from Incandescent to LED bulbs, Ways to Avoid Using Poisonous Mouse Bait. Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the January communication items which was moved by Commissioner Wynnychenko and seconded by Commissioner Park-Jones.

AYES: PARK-JONES, WYNNYCHENKO, KUNKLE, HANLEY

ABSENT: VARCA, SYLVESTER

NAYS: NONE

b) Discussion of February Communication Items

The Commissioners reviewed the January Communication Items which included the EFC Green Awards Application, EFC Tips: Think Before you Buy and Think Before you Pack.

**6) Commission/Staff Reports:**

Resolution introduced in the General Assembly that was introduced by Senator Laura Fine at Commissioner Kunkle's request that designates the first full week of May as Compost

Awareness Week – match a theme of International Composting Week and is an educational and awareness campaign around the benefits of composting. The resolution will be included in the February’s agenda for discussion.

7) **Open Forum:** None.

8) **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Hanley. The motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.