

City of Franklin
Environmental Commission Meeting
May 24, 2023
Minutes

Approved
July 26, 2023

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Linda Horn called the May 24, 2023 regular Environmental Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Franklin City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

Present were Chair Linda Horn, Vice Chair James Cieslak, Secretary Jamie Groark, Alderman Jason Craig and Commissioner Sudarshan Sharma. Absent were Commissioner Amy Serafin. Also present were Planning Manager Laurie Miller and Associate Planner Marion Ecks.

II. Citizen Comment

The Citizen Comment period opened at 7:01 pm and closed at 7:01 pm. No citizens present.

III. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of April 26, 2023

Alderman Craig moved and Vice Chair Cieslak seconded a motion to table to next meeting. On voice vote, all voted ‘aye’; motion carried (5-0-1).

IV. Unfinished Business

- A. **Environmental Commission involvement in Arbor Day 2023 event.** General discussion. There was hope of better weather, but overall Arbor Day 2023 event went well. The partnership with MMSD (Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District) was well received. Discussion only, no action taken.

- B. **Update on the City of Franklin noise ordinance subcommittee activity.** Discussion indicated a Environmental Commission recommendation has not been moved to Common Council at this time. Planning Manager Miller briefly discussed there is data available on a decibel level. There are currently 3 sound monitors on the property line. Calibration recorded noise levels at peak times with a couple readings. Proposed, at the latest, is a sound study by July. The Commission is waiting to make a recommendation based on sound study Vice Chair Cieslak moved and Commissioner Sharma seconded a motion leave subject open to discussion pending the City on the existing sound monitors and the County’s sound study and remove Council recommendation until after sound study is performed. On voice vote, all voted ‘aye’, motion carried (5-0-1).

- C. **Review of articles for the City of Franklin Newsletter.** The next newsletter is scheduled for September 11, 2023. Articles are due by July 25, 2023. Suggested to have by June’s Environmental Commission meeting. Vice Chair Cieslak elaborated on the special relationship the City has with MMSD and suggested having a late fall special drop-off point for residents to dispose of hazardous waste. Location suggestions were Franklin Public Library or Department of Public Works at W. Ryan Road. Discussion only, no action taken.

- D. **Common Council referral of “No Mow May” to the Environmental Commission for research and recommendation back to Common Council.** Item is complete. The Commission had a discussion with MMSD about plant types, plant alternative landscaping and mowing recommendations. Associate Planner Ecks to follow up with MMSD on natural resources and planting.
- E. **Update on Environmental Commission participation in City of Franklin Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Task Force, to provide assistance in revisions to the Natural Resource Protection Standards and other elements of the City of Franklin UDO.** Planning presentation was canceled. Discussion only, no action taken.
- F. **Update on Buckthorn Subcommittee activity and/or proposals.** General discussion. Vice Chair Cieslak suggested an interest in Weeds in the Wild program through Wehr Nature Center and the City of Franklin for grade schoolers. Wehr Nature Center offered to coordinate a training session for adults on identifying invasive species. The Commission would have to propose a Buckthorn removal program to an organization for their assistance.

V. New Business

- A. **Election of Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairman’s appointment of the Secretary.**
- Secretary Groark moved and Vice Chair Cieslak seconded a motion to nominate Chair Linda Horn as Chairperson. On voice vote, all voted ‘aye’; motion carried (5-0-1).
 - Secretary Groark moved and Commissioner Sharma seconded a motion to nominate Vice Chair James Cieslak as Vice Chair. On voice vote, all voted ‘aye’; motion carried (5-0-1).
 - Chair Horn re-appointed Secretary Jamie Groark as Secretary.
- B. **Overview of Environmental Commission Administrative Rules and Procedures.**
Discussion only, no action taken.
- C. **Environmental Commission involvement in City of Franklin’s National Night Out in August of 2023.** The 2023 City of Franklin’s National Night Out will be held August 7, 2023 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Discussion only, no action taken.

VI. Schedule Next Meeting

- A. June 28, 2023

VII. Adjournment

Secretary Groark moved and Commissioner Sharma seconded to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting of May 24, 2023 at 8:05 p.m. On voice vote, all voted ‘aye’; motion carried (5-0-1).