

**City of Franklin
Environmental Commission Meeting
February 28, 2024
Minutes**

**Approved
March 27, 2024**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Linda Horn called the February 28, 2024, regular Environmental Commission meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Franklin City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

Present were Chair Linda Horn, Alderman Jason Craig and Commissioners Sudarshan Sharma and Amy Serafin. Also present was Principal Planner Marion Ecks.

II. Citizen Comment

The Citizen Comment period opened at 7:06 pm and closed at 7:26 pm. Six citizens were present.

**III. Approval of Minutes –
Regular Meeting of January 24, 2024**

Alderman Craig moved and Commissioner Serafin seconded a motion to approve. On voice vote, all voted ‘aye’; motion carried (4-0-0).

IV. Unfinished Business

A. Review of articles for the City of Franklin Newsletter.

Discussion only, no action taken.

B. Common Council referral of “No Mow May” to the Environmental Commission for research and recommendation back to Common Council.

The Common Council reviewed the recommendation. The Council’s concerns were:

- Places a burden on Department of Public Works to enforce this option
 - Concern that parks may look messy if the City did not mow consistently
- Vice Chair Serafin expressed that the “messy look” is an educational issue. When the lawns are left to grow without mowing,
 - It is better for pollinators.
 - There is no need to use gas, since the engine powered lawn mowers are not used

Commission members decided to review other resources during the next meeting and send recommendations to the Common Council.

Common council wants the Commission to recommend alternates to “No Mow May” - Commission must provide best practices recommendation. This topic was discussed only. There was no action taken.

C. 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.

No calendar set at this time. Discussion only, no action taken.

V. New Business

A. Environmental Commission involvement in Arbor Day 2024 event, scheduled for May 4, 2024.

Tree saplings will be distributed. If the weather is not conducive to being outdoors, the Commission can utilize the children's room at the library as a backup. Discussion only, no action taken.

B. Discussion of future Environmental Commission meeting start time.

Vice Chair Serafin moved, and Alderman Craig seconded a motion to move the start time to 6:30. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'; motion carried (4-0-0).

C. Discussion of creation of a combined Parks and Environmental Commission.

Discussion only, no action taken.

D. Natural Resource Features Special Exception application by Greg Marso (applicant and property owner) for the purpose of allowing for grading and fill of wetland, wetland setback, and wetland buffer.

7570 S. Kensington Way.

Some actions needed to be taken by the applicant are:

- Need updated wetland delineation report, the current one has expired.
- Placement of boulders required.
- Commission encourages planting native plants in the property.

Alderman Craig moved, and Commissioner Sharma seconded a motion to pass the recommendation as outlined in section V of the revised draft, February 28, 2024. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'; motion carried (4-0-0).

E. Root-Pike WIN summary of results from 2023 Respect Our Waters Survey

Discussion only, no action taken.

VI. Schedule Next Meeting

A. March 27, 2024

VII. Adjournment

Alderman Craig moved and Vice Chair Serafin seconded to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting of February 28, 2024, at 7:55 pm. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'; motion carried (4-0-0).