

**City of Franklin
Environmental Commission Meeting
January 24, 2024
Minutes**

**Approved
February 28, 2024**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Linda Horn called the January 24, 2024 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, Alderman Jason Craig and Commissioners Sudarshan Sharma and Amy Serafin. Also present was Principal Planner Marion Ecks and City Forester Tom Riha.

II. Citizen Comment

The Citizen Comment period opened at 7:02 pm and closed at 7:02 pm. No citizens present.

III. Approval of Minutes –

Regular Meeting of December 6, 2023

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.

An article "Don't Salt Your Driveway" was previously presented. No other articles proposed at this time. 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.

Principal Planner Ecks will present materials to Common Council in February. In past, Environmental Commission focused on planting native trees. No impact or benefit with No Mow May in the Franklin community. The City has strict code for maintaining lawns.

Vice Chair Serafin suggested best practices/ recommendations for mowing should be separate for mowing personal lawns and turf in conservation areas.

Open to discuss seasonal burn. Victory Creek as example to take to Common Council. Discussion only, 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.

At present, the project is on hold due to a number of reasons. Environmental Commission members will be able to attend a future meeting where they will have the opportunity to weigh in on mitigation on the draft version of the UDO. Discussion only, no action taken.

V. New Business

A. Environmental Commission involvement in Arbor Day 2024 event.

The Environmental Commission's involvement will be May 4, 2024, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

A list of trees and shrubs were presented. The Commission chose the following:

- River Birch
- Sugar Maple
- White Spruce (Evergreen)
- White Cedar (Evergreen)
- Ninebark
- Witch Hazel
- American Hazelnut

There will be City cleanup activities; Chair Horn will follow up with the Franklin Library on availability of an indoor room. Discussion only, no action taken.

B. List of Environmental Commission meeting dates in 2024.

The Commission discussed the list of meeting dates for 2024. Discussion only, no action taken.

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

Principal Planner Ecks presented a research document concerning proposed consolidation of two commissions for review.

Alderman Craig inquired about time saved for the Planner if both Commissions were combined. The savings is negligible; therefore, research will continue and Planner Ecks will present the findings to the Commission at a later date. Discussion only, no action taken.

VI. Schedule Next Meeting

- A. February 28, 2024

VII. Adjournment

Alderman Craig moved and Commissioner Sharma seconded to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting of January 24, 2024 at 7:55 p.m. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'; motion carried (4-0-0).