

**CITY OF FRANKLIN**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 9, 2020**

Approved  
January 27, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

- I. Chairman Arthur Skowron called the December 9, 2020 special meeting of the Environmental Commission to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Hearing Room, Franklin City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

On roll call, the following were in attendance: Chair Arthur Skowron, Vice Chair Linda Horn and Commissioner Jamie Groark. Associate Planner Marion Ecks attended the meeting in the Hearing Room, Franklin City Hall. Absent was Commissioner James Ciesiak. Also present was Debra Ninnemann for Gene Ninnemann, City of Franklin Weed Commissioner. Alderman Dan Mayer and Commissioner Patricia Pomahac participated remotely.

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

- II. The citizen comment period opened at 7:05 p.m. and closed at 7:05 p.m.. No citizens were present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the regular meeting of October 28, 2020.

III.

- A. Alderman Mayer moved and Vice Chair Horn seconded approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held October 28, 2020 meeting as presented. On roll call vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (5-0-1).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Ways to improve and expand Arbor Day 2021; involvement of Root-Pike WIN (Watershed Initiative Network), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2001, program in Arbor Day celebration; Arbor Day event(s) planning.

IV.

- A. Alderman Mayer moved and Vice Chair Horn seconded a motion to include a "Save the Date" article in the February Newsletter, delivery due the week of February 15, 2021 to remind residents of the planned Arbor Day event pending COVID-19 restrictions. As in past years Arbor Day is held at the Franklin Public Library the first Saturday of May. For 2021, it will be May 1. On roll call vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (5-0-1).

Review of articles for the City of Franklin Newsletter, from the Root-Pike WIN (Watershed Initiative Network), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2001, program [this item/event is in process due to COVID-19 related restrictions].

B. **Motion 1**

Vice Chair Horn moved and Commissioner Groark seconded a motion to include the article "Salt Your Margaritas-Not Our Fresh Water" in the February newsletter due for delivery the week of February 15, 2021. On roll call vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (5-0-1).

**Motion 2**

Commissioner Pomahac moved and Commissioner Groark seconded a motion to post the article, "RSC – A

Better Way” on the City of Franklin’s Web site. RSC refers to regenerative stormwater conveyance, a system currently being tested in Kenosha County. As a follow-up to the Web site information, Commissioners Pomahac and Groark will contact the instructors of the environmental science classes at Franklin and Whitnall High Schools, respectively. On roll call vote, all voted ‘aye’. Motion carried (5-0-1).

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources programs for presentation at the City of Franklin Library-dates/schedule [this item/event is in process due to COVID-19 related restrictions].

- C. Planner Ecks will continue contact with the communication department at the Wisconsin DNR for future speakers, topics and dates. To date, she has received no feedback. Discussion only. No action taken.

Environmental Commission recommendation to the City of Franklin Common Council to add Buckthorn (invasive species) to the list of noxious weeds (evaluate additional information and work with Staff to develop a proposal for classification of Buckthorn as a noxious weed).

- D. Debra Ninnemann, for Gene Ninnemann, City of Franklin Weed Commissioner was present to give an overview of the Weed Commissioners duties and answer questions regarding Buckthorn mitigation.

Information relevant to Buckthorn removal would be available to residents of Franklin via the City’s Web site which would include links to references providing further details such as use of chemicals, etc...

Alderman Mayer moved and Commissioner Groark seconded a motion to look at amending the current ordinance to include an acceptable mitigation time table between a person and the Weed Commissioner that includes an active degree of Buckthorn removal. On roll call vote, all voted ‘aye’. Motion carried (5-0-1).

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

- V.
  - A. No discussion.

**SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING**

January 27, 2021

- VI.
  - A. Vice Chair Horn moved and Commissioner Groark seconded a motion to accept the attached meeting dates of the Environmental Commission for 2021. On roll call vote, all voted ‘aye’. Motion carried (5-0-1).

**DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Environmental Commission involvement in the City of Franklin’s National Night Out program 2021.

- VII.
  - A.

Buckthorn-addition to noxious weed list update. **B.**

Gardening with native and natural plants. **C.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Notice is given that upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information, please contact the Franklin City Clerk's office at (414) 425-7500.

**VIII.** Vice Chair Horn moved and Commissioner Groark seconded to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting on December 9, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.. On roll call vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (5-0-1).

# CITY OF FRANKLIN

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

### Meeting Dates for 2021

|           |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|
| January   | 27 |    |
| February  | 24 |    |
| March     | 24 |    |
| April     |    | 28 |
| May       |    | 26 |
| June      |    | 23 |
| July      |    | 28 |
| August    |    | 25 |
| September |    | 22 |
| October   |    | 27 |
| *December |    | 8  |

\* December meeting a combination of November and December meetings due to Holiday schedules.

Notifications will be given for any cancellations or special meetings.

Time of meetings - 7:00 PM.

Place of meeting – Planning =Department Conference Room