

CITY OF FRANKLIN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
July 28, 2021

Approved
August 25, 2021

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

- I. Chairman Linda Horn called the July 28, 2021 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

On roll call, the following were in attendance: Chair Linda Horn, Vice Chair Jamie Groark and Commissioners Sudarshan Sharma, James Cieslak and Alderman Dan Mayer. Excused was Commissioner Patricia Pomahac. Also present was Associate Planner Marion Ecks.

CITIZEN COMMENT

- II. The citizen comment period opened at 7:02 p.m. and closed at 7:04 p.m.. 1 citizen was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the regular meeting of June 9, 2021 and June 23, 2021 and special meeting of July 8, 2021.

- III.
A. Commissioner Cieslak moved and Commissioner Sharma seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular Buckthorn subcommittee meeting held June 9, 2021 as presented. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (5-0-1).

Alderman Mayer moved and Commissioner Cieslak seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 23, 2021 as presented. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (5-0-1).

Commissioner Cieslak moved and Commissioner Sharma seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular Buckthorn subcommittee meeting held July 8, 2021 as presented. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (5-0-1).

NEW BUSINESS

Natural Resource Features Special Exception application by Veridian Homes, LLC (VH PVR, LLC, property owner) for the purpose of allowing for grading and fill of approximately 1,905 square feet of wetland and 2,574 square feet of wetland buffer for a 53 lot single-family residential subdivision (which combines two previously proposed subdivision developments, Oak Ridge of Franklin Subdivision and Pleasant View Reserve Subdivision, into a single project (38.66 total acres)),

- V.
A. Planner Ecks provided an overview of the Natural Resource Special Exception application. Commissioner Sharma clarified that trail will be developed by the property owner and will be connected to a trail that is being developed by the City. Commissioner Cieslak commented on how lots seem small compared to surrounding lots. Commissioner Groark added, will there be away for property owners to know they have an easement? Developer Matt Cudney commented that the conservation easement will be shown on the title. Commissioner Groark's concern regarding path width and is a small width acceptable. Developer Matt Cudney stated City Engineer required the path for emergency vehicles.

containing two outlots, Outlot 1 containing a stormwater detention pond and Outlot 2 consisting primarily of protected natural resource features, including an additional stormwater pond, also including the extension of Marquette Avenue from its current location westward to South 51st Street, to be completed as part of Phase 1 of 2 of the development which will include 25 home sites, and an asphalt trail connecting the cul-de-sac of 49th Court southward and eastward to the City's Pleasant View Park (culverts will be installed to maintain wetland hydrology and the applicant is proposing mitigation on site, adjacent to a nearby section of the same wetland), property located at 7501 South 49th Street, zoned R-6 Suburban Single-Family Residence District (Tax Key No. 791-9979-003).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Environmental Commission involvement in the City of Franklin's National Night Out program Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

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], including educational materials for Buckthorn (invasive species), that is, website information and QR (Quick Response) code (a two-dimensional barcode used to share website links).

Commissioner Cieslak moved and Commissioner Sharma seconded a recommendation of approval by City staff with the inclusion of a 5 year mitigation plan (3f). On voice vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (5-0-1).

IV.

- A.** Vice Chair Groark gave update on the City of Franklin's National Night Out program. Commissioner Cieslak reported that Wehr Nature Center children's hands on exhibit and 50+ seed packets will be available and provided for National Night Out. Associate Planner Ecks will make copies of the Hazard Waste flyer. Vice Chair Groark will make free garden index cards to include name, phone number and email and will ask if interested in Buckthorn or Environmental commission events. Discussion only. No action taken.
- B.** Deadline for the next newsletter is August 20, 2021. Root-Pike-WIN has already been submitted. Discussion only. No action taken.

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] [tentative date: October 13, 2021].

Update on Buckthorn Subcommittee activity and/or proposals.

City of Franklin street tree list update-best list reviews.

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.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

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.

C. Commissioner Pomahac has contacted Milwaukee Riverkeeper for a presentation at the Franklin Public Library for Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. and will be writing an article for the next newsletter. Discussion only. No action taken.

D. Commissioner Cieslak gave an update from the July 8, 2021 Buckthorn Subcommittee. A meeting is planned for August 21, 2021 at Grobschmidt Park from 9:00 – 12:00 pm to remove Buckthorn.

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District (MMSD) will not accept applications until January.

Commissioner Cieslak recommended a public forum regarding Buckthorn.

Chair Horn asked if anyone contacted the City of Oak Creek regarding their concern on Buckthorn. Commissioner Cieslak researched and found no mention of Buckthorn in their City Ordinance.

Discussion only. No action taken.

E. City Forester Tom Riha was not present. Recommendations should be sent to City staff. Discussion only. No action taken.

F. Associate Planner Ecks indicated staff had their meeting. Birchline is reviewing ordinances. Producing public input tools positive and negatives. Task force meeting has not been set. Discussion only. No action taken.

VI.

A. August 25, 2021

VII.

Vice Chair Groark moved and Commissioner Sharma seconded to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting on July 28, 2021 at 8:08 p.m.. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'. Motion carried (5-0-1).

