

**City of Franklin
Environmental Commission Meeting
March 27, 2024
Minutes**

**Approved
April 24, 2024**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Linda Horn called the March 27, 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.

II. Citizen Comment

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

III. Approval of Minutes –

Regular Meeting of February 28, 2024

Alderman Craig moved and Commissioner Serafin seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2024 Environmental Commission meeting. On voice vote, all voted ‘aye’; motion carried (4-0-0).

IV. Unfinished Business

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

Article on Turfgrass that are native to Wisconsin is appropriate and is timely. The Commission wants to know if the Ordinance specifies a height restriction for the grass. The Ordinance may have to be revised if the maximum allowable height is shorter compared with the height reached by native grass.

Commissioner Sharma moved and Commissioner Serafin seconded a motion to publish the article from Root-Pike WIN with a note inviting citizens to join the Environmental Commission. On voice vote, all voted ‘aye’; motion carried (4-0-0).

B. 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 update available 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.

Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy will be present. Start time for tree saplings distribution is 10:00 a.m.. Discussion only, no action taken.

B. Discussion of future Environmental Commission meeting start time.

Next meeting will start at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

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

There is no update at this time. Discussion only, no action taken.

D. Discussion of natural areas and mowing information/recommendations, and other recommendations regarding native plants, to forward to Parks Commission.

This topic is on the agenda for the next meeting of the Parks Commission at 6:30 p.m. on April 8, 2024.

UW-Madison Extension has links with plenty of details about native plants and benefits of not mowing, etc. Environmental Commission, at this time would like to direct the members of Parks Commission to these links. Environmental Commission can provide additional details if anyone wants more information.

If Parks Commission requires a cost benefit analysis for review, Environmental Commission would like to request data on: (*data is not necessary if members do not need to see the analysis*)

- number of parks mowed
- how many times they are mowed
- time spent per park, per mow
- gas consumed per park, per mow

Vice Chair Serafin will send article to Principal Planner Ecks, who will add it to the Parks Commission packet. Discussion only, no action taken.

VI. Schedule Next Meeting

- A. April 24, 2024

VII. Adjournment

Vice Chair Serafin moved and Alderman Craig seconded to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting of March 27, 2024, at 7:37 pm. On voice vote, all voted 'aye'; motion carried (4-0-0).