

City of Franklin
Environmental Commission Meeting
June 26, 2024
Minutes

Approved
August 28, 2024

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Acting Chair Amy Serafin called the June 26, 2024, regular Environmental Commission meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Franklin City Hall, 9229 West Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

Present were Acting Chair Amy Serafin, Alderman Jason Craig and Commissioners Sudarshan Sharma and Jesse Valdez. Absent was Commissioner Steve Suhaysik. Also present was Principal Planner Marion Ecks.

II. Citizen Comment

The Citizen Comment period opened at 6:32 pm and closed at 6:35 pm. 1 citizen was present.

Mr. Andy Pelkey, living at 9320 West Grand View Court, was present and wanted to comment on the Buckthorn problem. He felt that the survey results on buckthorn were positive. Per the survey, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the respondents needed more information and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the respondents said that they had enough information to make a decision. Of the 75% of the respondents who said that they had enough information, $\frac{2}{3}$ of them said that they wanted the problem to be addressed. Mr. Pelkey wanted someone to take some action and get the job done by putting some curbs on the buckthorn issue. He suggested taking simple steps like asking the residents to remove buckthorn if it is present within 50 feet from their property and if someone is unable to do it because of the financial burden, he suggested providing a waiver and offer help from volunteers to remove the buckthorn. He said that the city must do something instead of doing nothing.

V. New Business

A. Election of Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairman's appointment of the Secretary.

Commissioner Sharma nominated Commissioner Valdez as Chair and Acting Chair Serafin seconded. On voice vote, all voted 'aye;' motion carried (4-0-1). Commissioner Valdez unanimously elected as Chair.

Commissioner Sharma nominated Acting Chair Serafin as Vice Chair and Alderman Craig seconded. On voice vote, all voted 'aye;' motion carried (4-0-1). Acting Chair Serafin was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

Chair Valdez appointed Commissioner Sharma to continue as Secretary of the Environmental Commission.

III. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Sharma moved and Alderman Craig seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2024, Environmental Commission meeting. On voice vote, all voted ‘aye;’ motion carried (4-0-1).

IV. Unfinished Business

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. Informative session with staff and UDO revisions Consultant – draft Article 7 Natural Resource Features.

Consultant Ms. Juli Beth Hinds from Birchline Planning, LLC presented the material. Ms. Hinds informed that the Commission must focus on commenting about where and what types of landscape and environmental enhancements would have value. Two things that may have to be mitigated in Franklin are forest or woodlands and wetlands. Look into areas that may need shade, what kind of plants may need to be planted, improving the quality of landscape, things like these must be proposed and can go into mitigation guidelines. The Commission was asked to weigh in on suggesting who should review what plans and for what elements.

Currently the Commission is reviewing the draft. Sections of the UDO draft copy, highlighted in yellow, must be looked into and must provide input on mitigation options. After these sections are filled in and approved by the Commission, the draft can move to the adoption process. A draft must be finalized by Labor Day, September 2, 2024. Discussion only, no action taken.

V. New Business

C. Review of Natural Resource Protection Standards, UDO Part 4

Draft was provided to the commission members. Discussion only, no action taken.

D. Fox Glen NRSE. Natural Resource Special Exception (NRSE) for unpermitted impacts to wetland setback and buffer, and floodplain, on property located at 11027 S 27TH ST / 978 9998 000 and 0 W South County Line Rd. / 978 9999 001.

Consultants, Matt Carey of Pinnacle Engineering Group, Sam Schultz of Von Briesen & Roper, and Jeff Knauf of Fox Glen, were present.

Chair Valdez moved and Vice Chair Serafin seconded a motion to recommend all actions as listed in the draft version of the NRSE application draft (Section V of the application). Additionally, the commission recommends installing construction fencing to protect the wetland buffer and to remove the construction fence after the fill removal work is complete and for a use of diverse seed mix, short and long grass, and perennials, to be planted. On voice vote, all voted ‘aye;’ motion carried (4-0-1).

IV. Unfinished Business

- A. Review of articles for the City of Franklin Newsletter. Deadline for the September issue is Wednesday, July 17.**

Discussion only, no action taken.

- C. Environmental Commission involvement in Arbor Day 2024 event, scheduled for May 4.**

The turnout from the community was very positive. Consider including educational activities for small children in attendance (for future Arbor Day events). Discussion only, no action taken.

V. New Business

- B. Review of Administrative Procedures.**

Discussion only, no action taken.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Valdez moved and Vice Chair Serafin seconded to adjourn the Environmental Commission meeting of June 26, 2024, at 9:04 pm. On voice vote, all voted 'aye;' motion carried (4-0-1).