



**Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission
Notice of Regular Meeting
May 11, 2016**

The Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission will convene on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 in the **Council Room at the Village Hall, 510 Green Bay, Winnetka, Illinois**, at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

Call to Order

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| (1) | Introduction & Chair's Remarks | Presenter Dowding |
| (2) | Review and Summary of Minutes | |
| | a) Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes (April 13, 2016) | Presenter Dowding |
| (3) | New Business, Old Business/Updates | |
| | a) Refuse and Recycling Discussion | Presenter Dowding |
| | b) Coordination with a Winnetka Go Green sponsored LRS Open House Meeting | Presenter Dowding |
| (4) | Committee/Staff Reports | |
| | a) EFC Webpage Updates | Matt Havlik |
| (5) | Open Forum | |
| (6) | Public Comment | |
| (7) | Adjournment | |

Posted Time and Date

NOTICE

All agenda materials are available at villageofwinnetka.org (**Government > Council Information > Agenda Packets & Minutes**); **the Reference Desk at the Winnetka Library**; or **in the Manager's Office at Village Hall (2nd floor)**.

The Village of Winnetka, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that all persons with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities, contact the Village ADA Coordinator – Megan Pierce, at 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, 847-716-3543; T.D.D. 847-501-6041.

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
April 13, 2016

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Environmental and Forestry Commission of the Village of Winnetka, which was held in the Village Hall Council Chambers, 510 Green Bay Rd., Winnetka, Illinois, Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at 7:00 pm.

Call to Order: Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; voting Members present: Chairperson Chuck Dowding, Caryn Rosen Adelman, Mike Nielsen, Rosann Park-Jones, and David Varca. Voting Members absent: Chris Foley and Jim Wilson. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Ex-officio Members present: None. Village Council Representative: Scott Myers. Student Representative absent: A.J. Formolo. Also present Director of Public Works/Village Engineer, Steve Saunders and Public Works Analyst, Matt Havlik. Four members of the public were present.

- 1) Introduction & Chair's remarks: Chairperson Dowding welcomed all Commission members.
- 2) Review and Summary of Minutes: Adoption of the March 13, 2016 regular meeting minutes. Chairperson Dowding asked for approval of the March 13, 2016 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Rosann Park-Jones moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Caryn Rosen Adelman seconded. By voice vote, the motion carried.
- 3) New Business, Old Business/Updates:
 - a) Refuse and Recycling Analysis Presentation: Chairperson Dowding briefly read through the list of documents that the Commission had gathered thus far in their research process, explaining each one. Chairperson Dowding then introduced Trustee Myers to present the Waste Collection Alternatives PowerPoint. Trustee Myers explained this presentation includes all of the information gathered to date and that the Commission hopes to present to Village Council in June. Trustee Myers began the presentation by explaining the reasoning for completing the analysis which was to address the refuse budget deficit. Trustee Myers also explained that refuse collection is billed as a tax percentage which is a different cost for each household and the Village does not want to raise taxes to make up for this deficit. The most recent Village survey shows that the majority of residents are satisfied with their current refuse collection. Trustee Myers then shared some of the volume data the Commission has gathered and how the Village currently recycling approximately 36% of materials.

The Commission briefly talked about data presented by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC). Out of all the SWANCC member communities, the

three that perform backdoor refuse pickup are Kenilworth, Glencoe and Winnetka. Special note was made that Glencoe requires that bins be placed at the top of the driveway or at least visible from the street. Trustee Myers briefly went over the budget numbers associated with the study and emphasized that Winnetka residents pay approximately \$38.49/month for backdoor refuse collection. Trustee Myers then discussed the City of Highland Park as an example of a municipality that offers a multitude of different services depending on how much someone is willing to pay. Trustee Myers also talked about options for billing stating there are two main options: no change or moving toward a utility bill-type of billing. The Commission discussed that a utility bill style of billing would incentivize residents to recycle and may be an option that addresses the funding gap. The group briefly discussed the need to reduce costs through greater efficiencies.

Trustee Myers then presented the different options for addressing the funding gap which included 1) Mandate curbside pick-up with all costs in tax base; 2) Institute a flat utility fee of about \$39 per month per household that covers the full cost of refuse collection; and 3) Offer a volume based, utility fee to provide a choice of curbside or backdoor pick-up priced to reward reduction in waste. The variable fee structure would be similar to that instituted by Highland Park and arranged to provide a strong incentive to both reduce waste and roll it to the curb.

Trustee Myers also presented the specific recommendations to Village Council which included 1) Initiate community engagement on the options including a survey of Village residents on their interest in various pick-up options (including collection of food waste-- -- which was added after audience comment described below), 2) Explore costs of moving to a utility based billing system ; 3) Based on results of Village engagement, develop a pricing model for service options; and 4) Move forward with implementing changes after carefully gathering and considering community input.

- b) Public Comment Period on Waste Collection Alternatives: Chairperson Dowding opened up the discussion for public comment. Residents Jeannie and Earl Fry inquired about the possibility of beginning a composting program within the Village as part of the refuse alternatives study. She explained how the Village of Northfield just began a residential curbside composting pilot program, which is gaining popularity amongst residents and now commercial businesses. She stated that she believes residents in Winnetka should pay more based on the volume of garbage they create. Scott Myers responded that the Commission can look at options for composting.

Resident Liz Kunkle explained that the Village of Northfield collects compost as part of their landscape waste program and thinks curbside compost collection is a possibility in

Winnetka. This service could be an option for residents if they are interested in participating. Liz Kunkle also explained that local company, Collective Resources, currently provides composting collection services to about 24 homes in Winnetka and that Lakeshore Recycling Systems is beginning to move toward composting options. Ms. Kunkle states she believes that a Pay As You Throw (PAYT) method of refuse collection would be the best options for reducing waste.

Resident Charlotte McGee stated she also believes that PAYT would motivate residents to recycle more. She inquired about the logistics of this method and how it would work for those with very small, bag sized volumes of waste. Director of Public Works/Village Engineer, Steve Saunders, explained the best method would be to utilize stickers for bags. Ms. McGee stated that the Commission should consider including information in their presentation about composting options. Commissioner Adelman agreed this could be a piece of the analysis but should not be the focus. Chairperson Dowding added that composting could be considered. Trustee Myers indicated the Commission could include a compost option in the potential Village survey to gauge interest.

With no further comments from the public, Chairperson Dowding thanked the audience for their attendance tonight.

4) Committee/Staff Reports:

- a) EFC Webpage Updates: Matt Havlik showed the Commission the Tips to Go Green webpage along with the content that was added since the last meeting. The Commission discussed adding links to information already on the website to direct visitors to other helpful pages. Matt Havlik will continue adding content to the page.
- b) EFC Articles for E-blast & Mechanisms to Remind Residents of Recycling Options: The Commission discussed the possibility of including a few sentences in the upcoming E-Winnetka Reports relating to Spring Clean-Up Week to encourage residents to recycle as much material as possible before putting it out for pick-up. Matt stated that he would work with staff to get this message out.
- c) Commercial Recycling Update: Matt Havlik showed the Commission maps of commercial recycling dumpster locations throughout the Village that staff had prepared. Trustee Myers raised the question of how the Village can be more inviting to businesses to encourage recycling. The group discussed the need to better communicate the importance of recycling and that the dumpsters can be used by anyone. The Commission also discussed the possibility of the Chamber of Commerce surveying businesses relating

to recycling and to communicate to businesses that they benefit from recycling by paying less for refuse.

- 5) Open Forum: None.
- 6) Public Comment: Chairperson Dowding asked the remaining members of public if they have any additional comments. No additional comments were made by the remaining member of the public.
- 7) Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Caryn Rosen Adelman and seconded by Commissioner Mike Nielsen. Having the motion passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.