



Minutes of the Meeting  
Natural Resources Committee  
A Subcommittee of the Strategic Advisory Committee  
Geneva City Hall  
September 6, 2023

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Jay Womack.
2. Geneva NRC Members Present: Jay Womack, Carrie Carter, John Frankenthal, Stephanie O'hara, Rachel Ratos, Mel Rooney, Autumn Bruno and David Monaco (SPAC Liaison). Absent: Bill Doeckel, Tom Dickinson, Kelvin Limbrick, Adam McMillen, Jeanine McMillen, Dan Ludwig, Steve Matravers and Sam Kresler (GHS Liaison).
3. Amendments to the Agenda. None.
4. Approval of Minutes from August Meeting. Rachel Ratos moved and seconded by John Frankenthal to approve the August minutes.
5. Active Projects:
  - Earth Day Event.
    - i. Keep the light on for 2024.
  - Eastside Fire Station Natural Landscaping Project
    - i. Dan Ludwig continues to monitor the plants.
  - River Clean-up Day
    - i. Gearing up for September 16, 2023.
    - ii. An updated flyer has been sent and information is being posted on social media and in the City. Can sign up online.
    - iii. Jay will pick up snacks etc. from Costco.
    - iv. Steve is working on a dumpster to be located at Fabyan. The dumpster will probably need to be located at the top of the hill.
    - v. Parking was discussed since most of the parking spaces at the wastewater treatment plant are gone due to railroad construction. Someone will stand at the top of the hill and direct people to alternate locations. Jay will send out a map.
    - vi. NRC will meet at spillway on Island Park around 8:30 to set up.
    - vii. Graham Gift Certificates (\$25.00) will be presented to the strangest, funniest and biggest items (these categories may be modified before the event).
  - Rain Barrels
    - i. Jay has rain barrels - they are \$75 each.
    - ii. NRC has donated one rain barrel to the Park District for Autumn Fest.
  - Greening Geneva
    - i. We discussed locations for planting trees this fall. Sterling Manor Park has been approved for planting trees primarily burr and white oak. Wasco will plant the trees and the trees will be paid for through the communal WCT funds.
    - ii. Wasco has been contacted regarding three trees on Franklin in front of Lutheran Church which need to be replaced.
    - iii. Need to make sure the City is watering trees during prolonged periods of drought.
    - iv. Discussed planting trees in grates near Noble House and Buttermilk.
  - Wine, Cheese and Trees.
    - i. The next event will be the last Saturday in February which is February 24, 2024.
    - ii. Library is reserved for the next event.
    - iii. Discussed increasing budget to purchase items for live auction, music and food. Discussed getting the Bonita Springs house again as well as a Bed and Breakfast in Wine Country.
    - iv. The Charcuterie demonstration was a big hit last year, possibly have more demos such as food and wine pairings.
  - Fabyan Preserve Stewardship
    - i. Workdays will start the second week of October. A schedule has been sent out.
  - Elm Park Restoration Work.
    - i. No update this month.

- NRC Facebook and Instagram
    - i. Discussed City reviewing the posts and responding to comments.
  - Recycling Bins on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.
    - i. The bins are still there. The recycling bins do not seem to be emptied as often as the trash. The trash and recycling bins are an eyesore at times. There was discussion about how to reduce plastic use during City events. In the future the NRC would like to meet with the Chamber to discuss this. It was decided that the NRC will start a Sustainability Initiative to come up with ideas and recommended actions to help businesses and the City to become more sustainable.
  - Pumpkin Recycling
    - i. Autumn and Jay met with the Geneva Park District and Claire Ryan of Kane County. The event will be held on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to noon at the District's Community Gardens (Prairie Green Preserve).
    - ii. Autumn is coordinating with her Middle School, Kane County Collects, Kane County Farm Bureau, SCARCE, Geneva Green Market (Mark Weaver) and Flat Can Recycling.
    - iii. Autumn is sending a letter of request to the City.
  - NRC Lecture Series
    - i. NRC will begin a quarterly lecture series on environmental educational opportunities. The lectures will be held at the library.
    - ii. The first lecture was by "Good Bat Neighbor". The event was well attended by the community and generated a lot of questions and interest.
    - iii. The second lecture will be a presentation by the Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District on December 9<sup>th</sup> from 2 pm to 3 pm. Topics covered will include a history/overview of the District, the mission of the District and protecting the Fox River watershed.
    - iv. March will be a presentation on native landscaping.
  - Dark Sky Initiative
    - i. NRC will continue to promote the Dark Sky Initiative.
    - ii. The Geneva Park District has signed on.
  - Tree Ordinance
    - i. Based on NRC recommendations, there are several sections of the City Code that need to be amended in relation to tree preservation, tree protection and landscaping. To date the City has not approved the revisions.
6. New Initiatives
- Create an annual environmental award recognizing a community member who makes a difference. This will be discussed at a later meeting.
  - Create an education piece on styrofoam and plastics.
  - Continue to support an educational opportunity to move Spring leaf collection into May and not April.
7. Treasurer's Report – We have cash.
8. Additional business – None to be had.
9. Adjournment – Rachel Ratos moved, and John Frankenthal seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Carter