



Minutes of the Meeting  
Natural Resources Committee  
A Subcommittee of the Strategic Advisory Committee  
Geneva City Hall  
February 4, 2026

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00.
2. Geneva NRC Members Present: Rachel Ratos, Autumn Bruno, Kevin Potts, John Potts, John Frankenthal, Jane Bond, Joe Viso  
Absent: Stephanie O'hara, Kelvin Limbrick, Jay Womack, Mel Rooney, Tom Dickinson, Erickwaldchen, Carrie Carter, Steve Matravers, Ellen Osborne, Adam McMillen, Jeanine McMillen, Dan Ludwig. Guests: Mark Kloet (SPAC Liaison)
3. Amendments to the Agenda.
  1. No amendments. John approved. Kevin second.
4. Approval of Minutes from October Meeting. John approved. Kevin Second
5. Active Projects:
  - Earth Day Event.
    - i. Every day is Earth Day!
    - ii. Next event will be on April 18th! Likely 11 am to 1 pm again
    - iii. We discussed promoting the Dark Sky Initiative further at Earth Day by handing out informational pamphlets, free light bulbs and sharing how the park district has made changes to their infrastructure
  - Eastside Fire Station Natural Landscaping Project
    - i. The landscape is asleep
  - River Clean-up Day
    - i. Next cleanup will be September 19th
    - ii. Working with Nicole to see if they can adjust the date or time of Autumn fair since it usually conflicts
    - iii. Park district is willing to advertise the Pumpkin smash at Autumn Fair
  - Rain Barrels
    - i. Barrels are \$75 each
  - Greening Geneva
    - i. The trees are asleep
  - Wine, Cheese and Trees.
    - I. The 15th annual event will be Feb 28th
    - ii. The NRC is prepping and collecting items. Library has reserved rooms for Feb 28th
    - iii. The last planning meeting will be at the library on February 10th at 6:30 pm
    - iv. John brought in a donation from Chipko Market and the Baker Hotel. Rachel will bring them to set up along with the other items she has collected.
  - Gunnar Anderson Stewardship
    - i. Workdays are moving along nicely
    - ii. With the help of the Batavia Environmental Commission, we will start advertising for Battle of the Brush Piles which will be Saturday March 14th
  - Elm Park Restoration Work.
    - a. Nothing
  - NRC Facebook and Instagram
    - i. Members are encouraged to send in information.
    - ii. Mel and Rachel have been and will continue to promote WCT. Rachel to ask Mike for some "how to" infographics that we can share on Aucturia
  - Pumpkin Smash
    - i. The 2025 pumpkins are slowly going back into the Earth!
  - NRC Lecture Series
    - I. Next lecture is about mushrooms on March 7th
    - ii. Public works has agreed to give a lecture on Monday June 29th
  - SPAC and Community Engagement
    - I. Kevin, John, Steve and Rachel had a meeting with public works and Ben in January. It went very well. We are pursuing to add 10 of the 16 suggested native trees to the parkway list. Additionally, John passed along our trees planted and we hope to have a map of all trees paid for by WCT by this year's WCT! We also had a good discussion on potential sign options for newly planted WCT trees and future lectures on rain barrel usage.

- Dark Sky Initiative
    - I. NRC to continue to promote the Dark Sky Initiative
    - ii. We will try to promote this more at Earth day this year. See above.
  - Tree Ordinance
    - I. NRC will follow up for additional meetings with the City to review requested changes.
  - Bird City
    - I. Application is in. Hope to hear back in March.
    - ii. World Migratory Day - likely the 2nd weekend in May and targeting warbler migration. Likely at Fayban. Waiting for official Bird City acceptance!
    - iii. Potential to convert an area by the water treatment plant at Peck and Keslinger to native bird area. We will need some support going forward.
6. New Initiatives
- Create an education piece to reduce plastic and styrofoam at restaurants
    - I. Jane will be sending an email with information and links on what we want to target. We would like to have a meeting with restaurants to find things they can change and potentially recognize those that are making efforts towards these initiatives. Potentially reach out to Mike from Stockholms to get his thoughts
  - Continue to support education opportunity to move Spring leaf collection into May, not April
7. Treasurer not present.
8. Additional business - none
9. Motion to adore - John 1st, Kevin 2nd at 7:11 pm