

CITY OF CHILlicothe, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. 22-07-08

RESOLUTION PERMITTING INSTALLATION OF BEEHIVE AT CHILlicothe PUBLIC LIBRARY

WHEREAS, the City of Chillicothe, Illinois ("City of Chillicothe") is an Illinois municipality organized and operating pursuant to the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/1-1-1, *et. seq.*); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Illinois Municipal Code, the corporate authorities of the City of Chillicothe have the authority to define, prevent, and abate nuisances (65 ILCS 5/11-60-2); and

WHEREAS, the City of Chillicothe has adopted, codified, and published the Code of Ordinances, City of Chillicothe, Illinois ("Chillicothe Code"), including, amongst other chapters, provisions regarding nuisances and the prevention and abatement of nuisances; and

WHEREAS, Section 38-32(1) of the Chillicothe Code governing specific nuisance activities provides, "Within the corporate limits of the city, it is hereby declared to be a nuisance for any person to keep bees in such quantities or numbers or in such close proximity to private dwellings or any public streets or alleys of the city or public or private watering places that the use of private or public hydrants or watering places is rendered dangerous whereby persons or stock may be stung;" and

WHEREAS, the City of Chillicothe received a proposal from the Chillicothe Public Library District ("Library District") to install a single beehive on library property that will be managed and maintained by a professional beekeeper in an effort to educate the community on the importance of pollinators and stabilize a declining bee population, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chillicothe's Judicial Committee has determined the beehive proposed by the Library District will be installed and maintained in such a manner as to not constitute a nuisance as defined by Section 38-32(1) of the Chillicothe Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Chillicothe ("City Council") agrees with the Judicial Committee's determination and finds it is necessary and in the best interests of the City of Chillicothe and the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens to permit the installation and maintenance of the beehive proposed by the Library District in accordance with Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHILlicothe, PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

Section One: The foregoing recitals and the findings therein are hereby adopted by the City Council and are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Section Two: The corporate authorities of the City of Chillicothe hereby find the beehive proposed by the Library District will be installed and maintained in such a manner as to not constitute a nuisance as defined by Section 38-32(1) of the Chillicothe Code.

Section Three: The corporate authorities of the City of Chillicothe further find the City of Chillicothe and the health, safety, and welfare of the public will not be detrimentally impacted by permitting the installation and maintenance of the beehive proposed by the Library District in accordance with Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
CHILLICOTHE, PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS this 11th day of July, 2022.

Ayes: Seven (7)

Nays: One (1)

Absent: None (0)

Attest:


Margaret Hurd, Clerk


Michael D. Hughes, Mayor

Scope

The Chillicothe Public Library District desires to install a single beehive on the library property that will be managed and maintained by a professional beekeeper. The intended outcome of this initiative is to educate and inform the community on the importance of pollinators, while helping to stabilize a rapidly declining bee population.

Rationale

Public libraries are dedicated to providing knowledge, and responsible for the dissemination of such; not just through the printed word, but also through actions. This ideology is the principal motivation for long-range initiatives the library has adopted that are closely aligned with the United Nations *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDG). These goals are the blueprint for a sustainable future.

CPLD's first SDG initiative involved swapping inefficient fluorescent lighting for LED fixtures. That single project helped reduce our annual energy consumption by 48.7% in the first year.

The second SDG project addressed the need to reduce our Traditional Energy Consumption (TEC), and in turn our carbon footprint. To meet this aim the library installed 120 kW rooftop solar array that offsets our TEC by approximately 60%. The benefits generated since the installation in April can be seen through the generation of 56.56 Megawatts (56,000 kW) of electricity, the avoidance of 234,279 pounds of carbon emissions, and the equivalence of 1,770 trees planted.

Our current SDG focuses on creating sustainable, healthy green spaces. We intend to achieve this through expanding our native grass and wildflower areas, as well as by incorporating clover into the library's lawn space. The benefits of this objective include helping us reduce water consumption, and carbon emissions related to mowing, along with providing life-sustaining resources for our threatened pollinators – especially bees.

Bees are vitally important to the agricultural economy, yet due to persistent environmental threats their populations continue to decline. A lack of understanding about bees among the community is an additional threat. Few are aware that bees are responsible for pollinating apples, melons, cranberries, pumpkins, squash, broccoli, zucchini, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, avocado, apricots, cherries, peaches, nectarines, tomatoes, okra, coffee, strawberries, sunflowers, and almonds. With many of these foods grown locally, supporting bee populations also supports our local agri-businesses.

Request

It is with this knowledge, and concern for the protection of our environment, that the Chillicothe Public Library District requests permission from the City of Chillicothe to install a beehive on library property. This hive would be located within our enclosed patio area.

This location is approximately 50' from both Bradley Ave. and Sycamore Street sidewalks, and is not impacted by public water access restrictions. This location is only accessible by the public from inside the library, although two exterior doors can be used to exit the patio space.

The standard hive will start with a single box measuring L21.5" x W17.75" x H9.625" that will expand to no more than 55" in height after individual honey storage boxes are added. The library is working

closely with Riverview Road Apiary who will oversee the installation, management and maintenance of the proposed hive.

The hive will be constructed from polystyrene and set in the garden area of the patio as pictured below.



The single proposed hive can generate up to 5 gallons of honey each year. A potential plan for the honey would be to suggest donations for small bottled samples, and use funds collected to offset future beekeeping management and maintenance fees. An alternative idea would be to simply divide the honey among library staff and board of trustees.

Conclusion

Like other pollinators, bees are a vital piece of a healthy ecosystem yet their populations remain threatened by habitat loss and pesticide use. The library believes that by adding beekeeping on library grounds we can help support the environment, we can educate our community, and we can stay true to the library's mission to be exemplary stewards of our natural resources.