

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 02/15/2012

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 18, 2012 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order Establish a Quorum

Dan Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

Roll Call - Dan Beebe, Steve Carrow, John Symowicz, and Bob Blaus were present.

Also in attendance was Street Superintendent Tim Wilcox and Jim Kleinwachter from the Conservation Foundation.

Established a quorum

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Environmental Commission Meeting of October 19, 2011

B. Environmental Commission Meeting of November 16, 2011

Draft meeting minutes for the above dates were not available. Approval of Minutes was tabled.

3. Review and Discuss Commission Priority List

A. Current list

Blooming Fest

Blooming Fest will be held May 19, 2012; the members discussed a "water" theme for this years event. Members discussed contacting organizations to acquire free handout materials for the booth. Members also considered how Rain Barrel information may be incorporated. Bob Blaus said he would contact Kay McKeen of SCARCE for information.

LEED

Steve Carrow indicated he review the concept plans for the proposed Municipal Center and wants to make sure the Commission recommends LEED certification for any new City development. Bob indicated that Villa Park's new Police Station is LEED certified and that it may be possible to arrange a tour of the facility. It was suggested that this subject be discussed next month. Dan indicated he plans to look at and organize a list of all previous Environmental Commission goals to bring to next months meeting.

Recycling

Tim indicated that one full holiday light recycle container (Gaylord) was swapped out for an empty one earlier this month. He will try to get current totals for the next meeting.

Dan said he plans to send out emails to Sims and Creative Recycling Solutions requesting proposals for a monthly recycling program. Plans for a 2012 Recycling Extravaganza would depend on the outcome of those proposals.

City property Landscaping

Nick Fuller was not able to attend tonight's meeting but emailed Dan to remind commission members to review his report of recommended changes to the right-of-way maintenance program designed to make it more environmentally friendly. It was not clear that everyone had Nick's report. Dan will contact him and ask that he email to all the members.

B. New Additions

Dan introduced Jim Kleinwachter from the Conservation Foundation who joined tonight's meeting to provide information and discuss their Rain Barrel Sale program. Jim provided the following information:

The Conservation Foundation is a not for profit organization. Their goal is to clean up the DuPage River. They sponsor education programs and provide yard assessments for residents to help make their yards nature friendly and conserve water. They also provide solutions for erosion and flooding problems and raise the awareness of water as a resource. To conserve drinking water they recommend using native plantings, limiting sprinkler use during the months of June - August (there is a 30-50% increase in water use during these months), and another step to conserve water is to use rain barrels.

The Conservation Foundation reconditions and prepares recycled food and beverage containers for sale as rain barrels. They sell these either to municipalities for \$65 a piece, who can then sponsor their own sales event, or they sell directly to residents for \$75 a piece. The price difference is due to taxes and credit card fees. They look to Municipalities to either buy rain barrels and sponsor their own sale, and/or provide space to host free seminars (The West Chicago Library has agreed to host a free seminar), and to help promote marketing their sale through various media available to the Municipality such as television cable access channel, flyers in residential water bills, newsletters, the website and so on. The Municipality must also arrange for a distribution center for delivery of water barrels sold in the area.

The sales periods are usually about one month, the containers come in a variety of colors and sized between 55-60 gallons. the colors are terracotta, gray, black or Cubs blue. The terracotta containers held mostly olives and are numerous due to the martini craze in the US. The containers are not reused for consumer products and are often shredded and sent to landfills. Painting

information is made available. Some communities have sponsored painting contests or raffles to help promote their use and sale.

Mr. Kleinwachter finished his discussion at 7:41 PM and departed.

A discussion followed on incorporating rain barrels into this years Blooming Fest and supporting the marketing of them. Members agreed this can and should be easily supported. It was also agreed that having rain barrels and selling them at the event would not work well. Supporting the sale directly from the Conservation Foundation to individuals would be best. Dan thought the Garden Club could help considerably to promote sales. A delivery date should be decided on as well as a location for a distribution center. Some of the ideas mentioned as a possible location for the distribution center were the, Fox Community Center, Park District, and Murphy's Ace Hardware. Tim will check to see if Street Division can be used as the delivery point and secure storage area for the rain barrels until they can be distributed. Dan said he would contact Mr. Kleinwachter and let him know the Commission would help support a sales promotion in the West Chicago area for the period between April 18 - May 19, 2012. It was thought that possibly 50 sales would be a reasonable expectation for number of barrels sold during that period.

Steve asked about getting an article printed in the Trib Local newspaper. Dan said anyone could submit an article but there would be no guarantee of it being printed in the paper.

4. Other Business

Next meeting is February 15, 2012

5. Adjournment

Bob Blaus motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Steve Carrow seconded. Meeting Adjourned at 8:38 P.M.