

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 04/17/2012

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 20, 2013 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order Establish a Quorum

Chairman Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:27 P.M. Roll Call found Dan Beebe, John Symowicz, Mike Ferguson, Nick Fuller, and Bob Blaus present.

Also in attendance was Street Superintendent Tim Wilcox and Dennis Clark.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Environmental Commission Meeting of January 16, 2012.

B. Environmental Commission Meeting of February 20, 2012.

Approval of minutes was tabled.

3. Review and Discuss Commission Priority List

A. Current list

Paper Shredding Event

The event will be held on June 1, 2013 at the City Hall parking lot. Mr. Wilcox has confirmed the date with Accurate Document Destruction, Inc. Mr. Blaus asked if more volunteers were needed. It was decided there should be enough commission members present so no additional help was needed. Mr. Blaus also suggested creating a handout listing the upcoming recycling events in the area.

Rain Barrel Sale

This year's West Chicago sponsored rain barrel sale will be held from March 25 – May 25, 2013. Barrels will be dropped off at the Street Division garage on or before May 31, 2013 and available for pickup at City Hall during the shredding event. Mr. Wilcox indicated that he emailed Jim Kleinwachter from the Conservation Foundation (TCF) the

application form for this year's rain barrel sale program. The City will be covering the \$250 participation fee for the education portion of the program.

Mr. Fuller will contact the West Chicago Library to see if they would be willing to host an educational seminar(s) by Mr. Kleinwachter from TCF. Mr. Blaus will contact the Methodist Church, or maybe one of the schools, to see if they could host one. Arrangements should be made as soon as possible so they can be advertised.

Blooming Fest

Mr. Ferguson asked if he should invite Liz Opholt from Energy Impact Illinois to the Environmental Commission's booth. Chairman Beebe indicated he should. A sign for the booth was discussed. Mr. Fuller will see if his wife may be able to help with this. Mr. Blaus indicated he could have it laminated for a reasonable price.

Right of Way Maintenance Program Recommendations

Mr. Fuller said he met and spoke to Rob Flatter, PE, Director of Public Works for the City of West Chicago at the Beyond the Basics: It Takes a Community to Clean Our Stormwater event sponsored by the Conservation Foundation. Mr. Fuller indicated Mr. Flatter was receptive to the idea of using native plantings in City maintained right-of-ways to reduce the frequency of maintenance required.

Mr. Wilcox will help locate an area where an isolated section could be used as a test planting location.

LEED

No discussion.

Lighting Ordinance

Mr. Ferguson indicated that Homer Glen is sponsoring a spring stargazing event on Friday, April 12, from 8 to 10 at Homer Township's historic Trantina Farm in Homer Township. The Trantina Farm is located at 15744 W. 151st Street in Homer Township east of the intersection of Gougar Rd. and 151st Street. The event is coordinated by the Homer Glen Environment Committee, the Homer Glen EMA, and Homer Township. He is still working on getting an editable version of their lighting ordinance.

Mr. Ferguson also indicated there is a very good public service video called Losing The Dark that can be viewed on Youtube and/or download free of charge to use to educate people about the subject of light pollution and its effects on us and nature. The Video can be found on the website www.darksky.org.

Public Education

Mr. Fuller was not able to attend Warrenville Library's February 28, 2013 public environmental film presentation: Green Fire, Aldo Leopold And A Land Ethic For Our Time, however Dennis Clark was in attendance and he said about ten people showed up.

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Dates of the planned cleanups were discussed (April 13 and October 5, 2013). Mr. Blaus indicated he will be unable to attend the April cleanup.

Community Garden

Mr. Fuller would like to advertise the Keepers Garden on the website and/or on a sign. He plans to change the current plot sizes from 7ft by 7ft, to 17ft by 7ft. He added there will be a class held on Organic Gardening on April 6, 2013 at St. Michael's Church. Cost was not yet determined, but it would either be free or cost as much as \$5.00 to non-Community Garden members.

Chairman Beebe asked him to forward his advertising write-up when it is completed.

B. New Additions

The subject of Coal Tar based asphalt sealants was brought up. Mr. Fuller had previously alerted the commission via email about the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup asking that municipalities voluntarily sign a MOU to not use coal-tar based sealants that can be harmful to rivers and probably wetlands, natural areas, and animals.

Chairman Beebe asked members if they, as a group, wished to make an official recommendation to the Infrastructure Committee for the City to sign the MOU not to use this type of sealant on City projects. He asked members to think about it and it will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. Mr. Symowicz mentioned that he had heard the asphalt based product did not look or perform as well as the coal tar based product.

Mr. Fuller added that the focus of a recommendation should be on the harmful effects it has on the environment. He also thought we should ask the Conservation Foundation if someone would be willing to come to a meeting to talk about the issue.

4. Other Business

Next meeting is April 17, 2013

5. Adjournment

At 8:27 P.M. Mr. Blaus made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Fuller. Motion was approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy R. Wilcox
Street Superintendent