

# CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 4/18/12

## MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 21, 2012 7:00 P.M.

#### 1. Call to Order Establish a Quorum

Dan Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

Roll Call - Dan Beebe, Steve Carrow, John Symowicz, and Mike Ferguson were present.

Also in attendance was Street Superintendent Tim Wilcox.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

##### A. Environmental Commission Meeting of February 15, 2012

Minutes were tabled.

#### 3. Review and Discuss Commission Priority List

##### A. Current list

Blooming Fest

Blooming Fest will be held May 19, 2012; Dan informed the group that applications to participate in the event were submitted for SCARCE and the Environmental Commission but not yet for the Conservation Foundation.

Dan said he will need to follow up with Kay McKeen to determine the availability of people to man the SCARCE booth. He also advised that he has spoken to Krista Coltrin and believes the three booths will be together for the event.

Mike was not familiar with SCARCE so there was a brief discussion of what they represent, i.e.: recycling, teaching teachers and green audits. There was also a summary of the Environmental Commissions involvement in past Blooming Fest events. In the past CFL bulbs were handed out to the public. Kay will be providing dye packs for testing toilets for leaks to hand out for this years event in support of our water conservation theme.

Nick Fuller could not attend tonight's meeting but had talked to Dan and asked if we could have a sign up sheet for people interested in a community garden in West Chicago. All were in favor but

Dan said there was a chance that a group may have a booth for this purpose. Dan would talk to Nick about contacting them for more information.

#### Rain Barrels

The Commission is sponsoring the sale of the Conservation Foundations rain barrels from March 19 - May 20, 2012 for the West Chicago area. They are currently advertised in the Window to West Chicago flier and also on the City Website. The link on the website takes you to the West Chicago order form at [upcycle-products.com](http://upcycle-products.com). Dan mentioned the rain barrel sale to members of the Garden Cub, and found there was a good deal of interest and possibly 25 members may make a purchase. It was noted a wrong date was indicated for a Conservation Foundation event at the West Chicago Library in the Window to West Chicago newsletter.

There was a brief discussion about rain barrels, the advantages of re-use barrels versus the Suncoast<sup>®</sup> made barrels. Its more green to re-use and they cost less as well.

Pick up date for ordered barrels is scheduled for Saturday May 26, 2012 at 135 West Grandlake Blvd. (Public Works Garage) between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM.

#### Adopt a Highway/Cleanup of Major Highways

Dan turned in the Environmental Commission's application for transferring locations some time ago. Tim explained it did not get on the March 2012 Infrastructure agenda but will go on the next Infrastructure Committee Meeting agenda (scheduled for April 5, 2012). The commission plans to switch locations from Route 64 beginning at Atlantic Drive and ending at Powis Road, to Route 64 beginning at Timberline Drive and ending at Route 59. This switch was proposed due to IDOT construction actively in the former location. A cleanup date was discussed and was selected for April 28, 2012 starting at 8:00 AM. (provided the transfer is approved). Dan will have waivers to sign and a portable DVD player available to complete the safety training for any that have not done so.

Dan mentioned he will talk to Jewel Food to try to get them to adopt the section of Route 38 in front of their store.

#### Annual Recycling Event

Andriana Kontovrakis is the new contact person for us at Sims. October 6, 2012 has been penciled in for this years event with Sims. (This is the Columbus Day weekend.)

Dan said he organized his contacts list and with more time to plan, it is hoped that everything will come together smoothly. Possibly Latex paint recycling will be added to this years event, although there is a cost associated with this. Members still feel this event is worth continuing even with the additional e-waste disposal available to residents (see Monthly Electronics Pick up below).

#### Monthly Electronics Pick Up

Dan mentioned a few things have come up since this was last discussed. Dan indicated Joe Tyna from Creative Recycling has not returned his calls, he has heard that Wego Dreams may be planning to work with Creative doing a monthly electronics pickup. Also, in the new Solid waste and recycling contract with Groot, there is included a free e-waste drop off for residents each

Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at its facility in West Chicago at 1995 Powis Road. It appears an additional monthly recycling event may not be necessary. Dan said he will not continue to pursue Sims on this matter. Increased promoting and advertising of Groot's free e-waste pickup on the website and newsletter was recommended. There was a good deal of discussion about Groot's contract, many of the suggestions made by the Environmental Commission appear to have been included in the new contract.

## **LEED**

Steve mention he spoke to some Community Center planners about LEED. Only one person he spoke to knew what he was talking about, and there was no apparent commitment to make the proposed community center a LEED building.

## **Holiday Light Recycling**

The program is coming to an end, there was one gaylord container emptied in January weighing about 670 pounds; there is at least one more full container ready to be picked up by Elgin Recycling.

## **Prescription Drugs Disposal**

It was pointed out that the prescription drug disposal container located in the Police Station lobby should be advertised more and mentioned on the City website.

## **B. New Additions**

No new additions

## **4. Other Business**

Mike Ferguson, the newest member to the Environmental Commission was welcomed at his first meeting tonight.

Mike mentioned he is involved in the Darkness Movement, the goal being to limit unnecessary lighting and lighting that shines upward in cities making the viewing of night stars difficult. Also to push to incorporate this idea into City planning. Mike said he would forward the website information to the members.

Steve said he was approached by a resident who said they had not received a verification letter after thorium cleanup in their yard. Dan said this should be referred to that person's alderman as this commission does not handle thorium concerns.

Next meeting is April 18, 2012

## **5. Adjournment**

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