

# CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved

## MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 6:00 P.M.**

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

Dan Beebe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call - Dan Beebe, Steve Carrow, Nick Fuller, Mark Davis, and Norm Moseng were present

Also in attendance were Street Superintendent Tim Wilcox, Marketing communications coordinator Rosemary Mackie, and Frank Hillegonds from Groot Industries.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

##### A. Environmental Commission Meeting of July 22, 2009

Approved by Mark Davis. Seconded by Steve Carrow

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

##### A. Discuss community communications options - Rosemary Mackie, City of West Chicago, Marketing and Communications Coordinator.

Rosemary explained her role as Market Communications Coordinator to the commission. City newsletter Bi monthly publication, City website, and special events marketing. Dan explained that our commission was looking at getting more communication on the city website about environmental activities related to West Chicago, links to other related sites. Steve presented a list of ideas i.e. list of items that are recyclable, putting environmental minutes on website. Rosemary said there is a section called meetings and agendas. Steve stated our minutes aren't posted there. Rosemary said it was an internal thing that needs to be worked out. Steve will provide Rosemary with a link to DuPage County's site so Rosemary can post it. A reference was made about SCARCE. Rosemary said they make a presentation at Blooming Fest every year.

##### B. Discuss waste management and residential/multi-family recycling options -Frank Hillegonds, Groot Industries, Municipal Manager.

Sticker program had some issues. People were driving by multi unit housing and dropping off their waste in multi-unit dumpsters causing owners to pay more for waste hauling due to large loads. 90-95% of paper goes to China. Recycling prices are down since China closed it's doors. All non fibrous material is sold to resource management. Recyclables are sorted at Groot. Preferred plastics are number 1,2,4,6, low, and high density polyethylene. Groot recycles paper,

475 Main Street  
West Chicago, Illinois  
60185

T (630) 293-2200  
F (630) 293-3028  
[www.westchicago.org](http://www.westchicago.org)

Michael B. Kwasman  
MAYOR  
Nancy M. Smith  
CITY CLERK

Donald F. Earley  
CITY TREASURER  
Michael L. Guttman  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

cardboard, and glass. Glass is currently sold at \$14.00 a ton and Groot processes it at \$10.00 - \$18.00 a ton. One porcelain coffee cup mixed in with glass can ruin 20 cubic yards of glass. Frank stated if you give residents a larger capacity bin they would recycle more. Residents fill 18-gallon bins in 4 days on average and will throw remaining recyclables in the garbage for the rest of the week. Frank recommended switching to 35 gallon recycling carts. Frank stated recycling went up 10-15% when you go from a bin to a cart and garbage volumes go down 3-5%. Carts cost residents about \$1.00 per month. When Groot delivers carts to residents they see contamination levels go down. Bins require additional labor for Groot. The carts would be picked up with automated lifts. Residents couldn't buy their own carts because they wouldn't fit the lifts properly. Recycling opportunities for businesses in West Chicago is well established. Groot has put together a web site where residents can type their zip code and see the programs for their area. A link from West Chicago's website to Groot's is now available and working.

Food waste can be mixed in with yard waste but the compost facilities need new permits to allow it. Only one facility in the area has filed for a permit to allow food waste with yard waste which will mean costs will be driven up due to supply and demand.

Groot has been picking up trash along North Ave and Rt. 59 every other month. Not all trash is coming off Groot trucks. Other contractors use their transfer stations. The commission would like to see Groot sign up for the Adopt a Highway program since they're already picking up sections.

The commission reviewed a Groot processes video.

### **C. Review current priority list**

Action item: Steve will talk to the park district about putting in a community garden. No action taken. Steve will try to reach Jesse Felix and bring results of the conversation to the next meeting.

Steve did talk to Jody Krause and was told they haven't decided what to do with Manville Oaks and it will be a couple of months before a decision is made.

### **D. New Additions**

None

### **4. Other Business**

None

### **5. Adjournment**

Steve motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Mark seconded. Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.