

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 8/20/14

MINUTES ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION May 21, 2014, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum.

Chairman Dan Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, Bob Blaus, Laura Barron, Steve Carrow, John Symowicz, Mike Ferguson and Kris Zimmermann present.

Also in attendance were Assistant Director of Public Works Tim Wilcox, West Chicago Resident Marilyn Kroll and Guest Frank Hillegonds of Groot Industries, Inc., Municipal Manager.

2. Approval of Minutes.

A. **Environmental Commission Minutes of April 16, 2014. Commissioner Ferguson made a motion seconded by Commissioner Blaus to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2014 with no changes. Voting Yea: Commissioners Beebe, Carrow, Zimmermann, Symowicz and Barron. Voting Nay: 0.**

3. Review and Discuss Commission Priority List.

A. Current List

Multi-family recycling, hazardous household waste, kitchen scrap composting, recent changes in electronic waste recycling, public recycling bins/containers – Frank Hillegonds, Groot Industries, Inc., Municipal Manager.

Multi-family recycling

Frank Hillegonds stated Groot just expanded with a \$14M recycling plant in Elk Grove that separates paper and plastic by grade and sorts all mixed household waste. Contamination in West Chicago recycling is a big issue. Groot sends a post card mailer to educate about recycling properly. Multi-family is the greatest challenge – no recycling chutes in hi-rises. Residents are given recycling bins in Carol Stream. Multi-family recycling in West Chicago currently is not part of the residential contract. Adding recycling creates doubling of services (2 trucks). 98% of

single family homes recycle, only 30% of multi-family households recycle. Unlimited collections improves “dumping.” Of 49 towns 18-20 have multi-family recycling.

Kitchen waste and food scrap composting is on the horizon. Commercial businesses and restaurants will be targeted first on a subscription service basis. Residents will come later. Jewel food stores are in the program. A combo of food scraps and yard waste will be accepted soon if legislation passes. Discussion ensued regarding electronic waste.

Groot will pay up to \$3,000.00 for recycling receptacles and the West Chicago Environmental Commission can select the style.

Tim thanked Frank for arranging for a shredding event truck.

Waste goes to West Chicago transfer station and then to Rockford. Groot doesn't collect hazardous waste (motor oil, paint) but Geneva has that with Waste Management.

Commissioner Ferguson inquired about battery waste and drills. Commissioner Blaus recommended SCARCE.

Commissioner Beebe discussed water bills for West Chicago and how there may be payment plans to catch residents up on making payments.

LEED feedback

Tim stated that the City in review of LEED recommendations is looking for more detail before the Council can vote on it. Commissioner Zimmermann volunteered to assume LEED duties. Discussion continued regarding a policy to have a minimum of municipal buildings that would adhere to LEED standards.

Dark skies - Commissioner Ferguson reported on Campton Hills and Homer Glen and will work with their ordinances.

Community Gardens – Churches, park district, forest preserve are all resources. Laura will contact the forest preserve.

Rain Barrels – 3 were sold at Blooming Fest. Commissioner Blaus attended Jim Kleinwachter's presentation Conservation at Work and Home thru the Conservation District.

June 7th 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. is the shredding event and green grease and rain barrels.

B. New Additions

There were no New Additions.

4. Other Business

Commissioner Carrow said he would be moving and stepping down from the Commission. Commissioner Barron will assume Secretary duties.

Commissioner Symowicz discussed Tree City USA. Tim mentioned the City meets many of the qualifications to be a Tree City. It has a tree ordinance, annual parkway tree planting and forestry maintenance programs. Parkway trees are trimmed on a 5 year trimming cycle and the City has well over \$60,000.00 in the budget each year for trees. He thinks the only two things lacking are an established Tree Board, and an Ordinance/event in honor of Arbor Day. America in Bloom was also discussed.

Blooming Fest feedback – bike racks were suggested, by some of the event attendees, to be placed by the Post Office, Walgreen's, Augustino's Rock and Roll Deli and Prince Crossing at Main Street.

June 18 meeting is cancelled and the July 16 meeting is to be determined based upon Commissioner availability and City liaison.

Adjournment – Commissioner Blaus made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Zimmermann seconded, all aye.