

# CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 10/15/14

## MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

September 17, 2014, 7:00 PM

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

Chairman Dan Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, Bob Blaus, Kris Zimmermann, Laura Barron and John Symowicz present.

Also in attendance were Assistant Director of Public Works Tim Wilcox and Guest from Elevate Energy, Elizabeth Lyon, Field Organizer.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes.

##### A. Environmental Commission Minutes of August 20, 2014

Approval was tabled to be approved at the October 15, 2014 meeting.

#### 3. Public Participation/Presentations

Elizabeth Lyon, Field Organizer for Elevate Energy

Elizabeth Lyon made a presentation regarding Illinois energy upgrades and provided a short bio of Elevate Energy which is a not for profit founded in 2000. Elevate Energy focuses on home energy efficiencies, lowering costs, reducing energy waste and improving community infrastructure. Further elaborated on were ComEd smart meters and the data they provide regarding energy usage. Elizabeth discussed a program to identify energy loss in the home called "Energy Impact Illinois" where Elevate Energy will assist with rebates from NICOR for residents at a cost of \$99 for an assessment. Elizabeth is seeking volunteers to get the word out regarding the program. There is a house party option where a free assessment will be provided to the host.

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

##### A. Review Current Priority List

Community Garden

Commissioner Beebe discussed the "People Made Visible" presentation from the previous month and asked Commissioner Barron to be the liaison to work with the community garden network group. People Made Visible is looking for land for a community garden. Commissioner Barron stated that the West Chicago Park District has not been receptive to a community garden concept.

#### Environmental Commission Adopt a Highway Cleanup Day

Cleanup day is scheduled the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in October – October 4, 2014 at 8 a.m.

#### LEED

Commissioner Zimmermann is working on researching other municipal LEED ordinances. Discussion ensued regarding LEED design and its importance and who should comply such as City versus commercial buildings and other municipalities. Members agreed that it sets a good example and places an increased value on properties with the energy efficiency features. More discussion ensued regarding meeting standards versus being a certified LEED building.

#### Dark Skies

Commissioner Ferguson is not present to discuss Dark Skies. He is waiting for Homer Glen ordinance amendments. Commissioner Zimmermann stated that Beverly Shores, Indiana has an ordinance. Commissioner Beebe stated that Campton Hills has an ordinance.

#### Blooming Fest

Commissioner Beebe is looking for a chairperson for the Environmental Commission booth at Blooming Fest.

#### Holiday Light Recycling

Holiday light recycling is all set to go with the Methodist Church, Murphy's Ace Hardware, City Hall and the Library participating. Friday after Thanksgiving collection begins (November 24<sup>th</sup>) and collection ends January 23.

#### Shredding Event

The shredding event went well, there were no donations of grease. Commissioner Zimmerman inquired about paint collection as she saw a line at Hanover Township. Electronic recycling is well covered in West Chicago it was agreed by everyone present. Commissioner Barron said she visited SCARCE in Glen Ellyn. Further discussion continued on recycling of fire extinguishers, chemicals, televisions, smoke detectors and household batteries. The Police Station accepts cell phones, prescription medications donations but no toxic or hazardous materials are accepted.

**B. Discuss New Additions to Priority List**

There were no New Additions.

**5. Other Business**

Commissioner Blaus handed out invitations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SCARCE Green Tie Gala to be held on Sunday, October 26, 2014 in Lombard at the Westin Hotel.

**6. Adjournment**

At 9 p.m. Commissioner Zimmermann made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Symowicz seconded. All were in agreement and said aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Barron, Commissioner, West Chicago Environmental Commission