

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 21, 2015, 7:00 PM

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

Chairman Dan Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, Bob Blaus, Mike Ferguson, Laura Barron, and Kris Zimmermann present. Commissioner John Symowicz was absent.

Also in attendance was Assistant Director of Public Works Tim Wilcox and West Chicago resident Marilyn Kroll.

2. Approval of Minutes.

A. Environmental Commission Minutes of November 19, 2014

Commissioner Kris Zimmermann moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mike Ferguson the Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2014. Voting Yea: Commissioners Beebe, Blaus, Ferguson, Zimmermann and Barron.

3. Public Participation/Presentations

Marilyn Kroll commented on a variety of subjects related to the City of West Chicago.

4. Review and Discuss Commission Priority List

A. Current

Commissioner Beebe distributed the 2015 event list. Commissioner Zimmermann mentioned that the highway spring cleanup day coincided with Blooming Fest. Commissioner Beebe announced that the theme of Blooming Fest is "Growing a Healthy West Chicago."

Adopt a Highway

Dates were scheduled for May 9 and October 3, 2015

Rain Barrels, Pumpkin recycling, and Paper Shredding

It was suggested to send notices in water or Groot bills to publicize the events. Commissioner Blaus suggested adding the Township fall event to the list as it was very successful. Pumpkin recycling is to be held 11/7/15 in Glen Ellyn, Wheaton and Elmhurst and is SCARCE organized.

Approved 2/18/2015

Holiday Lights

Over 600 lbs. was collected.

Blooming Fest

Commissioner Blaus talked about Blooming Fest plans and suggested sharing a booth with Elevate Energy. He also mentioned Kay from SCARCE wants to attend the next meeting to discuss smart meters for ComEd. Discussion ensued concerning smart meters usage. Commissioner Blaus suggested yellow page recycling. Commissioner Barron will speak to West Chicago Park District Superintendent of Parks, Jesse Felix regarding community gardening and other parks officials.

LEED

Commissioner Zimmermann previously presented a LEED draft to the Commission. Commissioner Beebe asked Assistant Director of Public Works Tim Wilcox how recommended change in ordinance would be presented to the City. Tim suggested seeing if there is interest and start with the City Administrator. Further discussion continued regarding what City committees would support the LEED and Dark Skies proposed ordinances.

Dark Skies

Commissioner Ferguson used Flagstaff's document and inserted West Chicago in it. LED lighting is not the answer to reducing glare. Metal halides are too bright. There are different types of shielded lighting and LED lights do not last. Low pressure sodium is best. Enforcement of the ordinance is complaint driven. The proposal would need minor tweaks prior to presenting. There was discussion of City lighting and being over-lit and bright. Commissioner Zimmermann asked about replacement of lighting fixtures. Tim will see who the lighting ordinance should be presented to. Commissioner Zimmermann wanted to emphasize good lighting can still be safe lighting for citizens of West Chicago. Commissioner Ferguson mentioned the film, "Losing the Night Sky."

B. New Additions

No new additions

5. Other Business

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 18, 2015.

6. Adjournment

At 8:22 p.m. Commissioner Beebe asked to adjourn and a motion was made by Commissioner Zimmermann and seconded by Commissioner Barron. Voting Yea: Commissioners Beebe, Blaus, Ferguson, Zimmermann and Barron. Voting Nay: 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Barron, Commissioner, West Chicago Environmental Commission.