

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved with changes March 18, 2015

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 18, 2015, 7:00 PM

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

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

Also in attendance was Assistant Director of Public Works, Tim Wilcox and Jeff Gahris from Elevate Energy.

2. Approval of Minutes.

A. Environmental Commission Minutes of January 21, 2015

Commissioner Beebe moved to approve seconded by Commissioner Zimmermann the Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2015. Commissioner Zimmermann requested amendments to the minutes that read Commissioner Beebe suggesting sharing a booth at Blooming Fest to Commissioner Blaus, yellow ages to yellow pages and adding the word recommended in the second sentence under LEED. All ayes as amended.

3. Public Participation/Presentations.

Jeff Gahris from Elevate Energy presented an abbreviated version regarding Smart Meters, Smart Grid and the energy assessment program. Jeff answered smart grid and smart meter questions from the group. Elevate Energy provides reduced cost assessment rebates for air sealing and insulation by a trained and certified workforce to save dollars and increase comfort. There are no income requirements and energy reductions can be as much as 15%. Hosting a house party earns a homeowner a free assessment valued at \$99.00. The Smart Grid improves community infrastructure and is more reliable. Smart meters provide information, dynamic pricing, residential real time pricing time of use, and peak time savings. Jeff provided handouts detailing the program.

4. Review and discuss Commissioner Priority List

A. Current

Rain Barrels

Tim Wilcox is working with the Conservation Foundation. Commissioner Beebe will attempt to include information in the Garden Club newsletter to boost rain barrel sales.

Blooming Fest

Commissioner Beebe will complete the application for the booth. ~~Commissioner Barron reported on discussions with the West Chicago Park District concerning community gardening. The Park District stated that they would not be able to participate in community gardening in 2015. Discussion ensued regarding Manville Oaks location where there formerly were garden plots.~~ Commissioner Zimmermann and Barron will discuss ideas for an Environmental Commission booth. Commissioner Blaus has access to a "solar house" that can be on display at the booth and check on its availability. Commissioner Symowicz asked if a rain barrel would be at the booth. Commissioner Blaus thought recycling education could be a booth idea.

LEED

Commissioner Beebe asked Tim Wilcox what the process is in proposing a LEED ordinance to the City. Tim replied that the City is stating that it would be a resolution or policy rather than an ordinance. Discussion outcome was that May was a good target date to present the LEED document to the City.

Dark Skies

The Dark Skies document was given to the City Administrator to review. Tim Wilcox will follow up with the City Administrator for feedback. Commissioner Ferguson stated that Bensenville is working with ComEd on a test program to work on replacing their street lighting. Discussion ensued regarding smart lights that dim.

Community Garden

Commissioner Barron reported on discussions with the West Chicago Park District concerning community gardening. The Park District stated that they would not be able to participate in community gardening in 2015. Discussion ensued regarding Manville Oaks location where there formerly were garden plots.

B. New Additions

No new additions.

5. Other Business

No other business.

6. Adjournment

At 8:30 P.M., Commissioner Bob Blaus motioned to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Symowicz. Motion was approved by voice vote.

Respectfully, submitted,

Laura Barron, Commissioner, West Chicago Environmental Commission