

# CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 11/18/15

## MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 21, 2015, 7:00 P.M.

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

Chairman Dan Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:14 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, John Symowicz, Kris Zimmermann, and Bob Blaus present. Commissioners Laura Barron and Mike Ferguson were absent.

Also in attendance were Alderman James Beifuss and Assistant Director of Public Works, Tim Wilcox.

**2. Approval of Minutes.**

**A. Environmental Commission Minutes of September 16, 2015. Commissioner Symowicz moved to approve the minutes of September 16, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Blaus.**

**Voting Yea: Commissioners Dan Beebe, John Symowicz, Kris Zimmermann, and Bob Blaus.**

**Voting Nay: 0.**

**3. Public Participation/Presentations.**

None

**4. Review and discuss Commission Priority List**

**A. Review current priority list**

LEED and Lighting Ordinance

Chairman Beebe introduced Alderman Beifuss to the members of the Environmental Commission. Alderman Beifuss is also the Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee. He accepted an invitation from members of the Commission to attend a meeting to answer questions relating to procedures for moving along items important to the Commission, such as LEED and the Dark Sky influenced Lighting Ordinance to appropriate Committee(s) for resolution and/or ordinance consideration.

Alderman Beifuss explained the basic process for this to occur. The subject matter of the item will determine which committee(s) the item will be presented. LEED would be presented to Infrastructure Committee since the recommendation is for future municipal buildings to be built with LEED standards. The Lighting Ordinance may require review by both Development and Infrastructure Committee. The staff liaison would place the item(s) on the agenda and provide an agenda item summary for review. Commission members are encouraged to attend the committee meeting to answer questions and/or make a presentation if necessary.

475 Main Street  
West Chicago, Illinois  
60185

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

Ruben Pineda  
MAYOR  
Nancy M. Smith  
CITY CLERK

Michael L. Guttman  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

The agenda summary for the lighting ordinance should state the purpose and benefits, it should also compare the proposed with existing ordinances in place pointing out differences. It is also important to educate the committee members on the subject matter, light pollution and trespass, and address grandfathering existing lighting. Various styles of existing lighting that cast light up and away from the ground was discussed and included globe style, stadium lighting at the High School compared to lighting at Wheaton Academy, lighting at McDonalds at Main Street and Neltor Boulevard, and lighted signs.

Chairman Beebe summarized what LEED is and what the commission is trying to accomplish by suggesting new City buildings should be built to incorporate LEED standards and designs. The actual certification by LEED is not the main goal. The idea is basically to get West Chicago thinking and being more environmentally friendly and to minimize the long term impact on the environment and reduce energy cost as a result.

Numerous examples were given of other municipalities and the County using LEED in their new construction and upgrades to existing structures. Alderman Beifuss indicated that Infrastructure Committee was involved with DuPage Airport and the selection of low maintenance plantings to reduce cost and impact on the environment. He also indicated that forward thinking is recognized and appreciated by residents. There was further discussion on related subjects like butterfly gardens, the Conservation Foundations program for assessing residential properties to be more nature friendly, energy audits by Elevate Energy Illinois, permeable pavers in parking lots, energy efficient houses being built on Diversey Parkway, and much more.

Chairman Beebe also talked about the possibility of having a representative from LEED come to a future Committee meeting to provide background and educational information on LEED.

#### Adopt A Highway

Commissioner's Beebe and Zimmermann performed a cleanup of the Environmental Commission's Adopt-A-Highway section of North Avenue east of Route 59. They collected the equivalent of about five large bags a trash and debris.

#### Holiday Lights

November 27, 2015 through January 29, 2016 was agreed upon Tim Wilcox will call and finalize with Elgin Recycling and Groot for the use of the recycling totes.

#### Paper Shredding Event

The first Saturday in June will continue to be planned for the City's event. June 4, 2016 is the next planned date.

### **B. Discuss new additions to priority list**

#### Creation of a Street Light (Request) Policy

Alderman Beifuss indicated a request was made by the Infrastructure Committee at their October 1, 2015 meeting for the Environmental Commission to develop a Street Light Policy for addressing requests for additional street lighting, considering procedure to make a request, requirements to justify a new light and various other considerations such as new technology, style, spacing, funding, and the impact and/or benefit the new light may have on neighboring residents and the environment. ComEd and City owned

street lights were discussed. Alderman Beifuss also described a recent request made to Infrastructure Committee by a resident for the installation of a street light in the parkway adjacent to his property. The resident indicated he wanted a light there for security reasons because there had been some crime in the area. The request was denied in part because there is no policy in place.

A discussion on whether street lights actually provide a more secure environment was also discussed. Commissioner Zimmermann said she would look into this to see if there are any statistics or studies on the subject.

## **5. Other Business**

Alderman Beifuss informed the group that the printed version of the City Newsletter will again be made available and sent out to residents.

Commissioner Symowicz gave a brief summary of the round table meeting he attended at the Morton Arboretum. He thought the meeting was very informative and he was amazed to hear what some of the other towns in the area are doing. He indicated the ultimate goal of the area Tree Boards & Tree Commissions is to log and document all trees located in the Chicago land area.

Chairman Beebe said he received an email from Commissioner Barron indicating her decision to resign from the Environmental Commission. He forwarded the email to Tim Wilcox. Commissioner Blaus thought he knew of someone that would be interested to serve on the Commission and requested a copy of the application form. Mr. Wilcox said he would provide this to him.

Commissioner Ferguson was not able to attend tonight's meeting but sent an email prior stating he was asked by a resident if the City allowed cisterns to be built on private property to collect rain water to water plants. The resident indicated she had a rain barrel but it did not collect enough water for all of her outdoor plants. Mr. Wilcox checked with the Community Development Department and was told they are allowed but a building permit would need to be filed and approved by the City first.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held at 7:00 P.M. on November 18, 2015. The meeting scheduled for December 16, 2015 has been canceled.

## **6. Adjournment**

At 8:45 P.M. Commissioner Zimmermann made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Symowicz seconded. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works