

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 1/21/16

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

November 18, 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 7:05 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, John Symowicz, and Kris Zimmermann. Commissioners Bob Blaus and Mike Ferguson were absent. Commissioner Ferguson arrived later at 7:35 P.M.

Also in attendance was Assistant Director of Public Works, Tim Wilcox.

2. Approval of Minutes.

A. Environmental Commission Minutes of October 21, 2015. Commissioner Zimmermann moved to approve the minutes of October 21, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Symowicz.

Voting Yea: Commissioners Dan Beebe, John Symowicz, and Kris Zimmermann. Voting Nay: 0.

3. Public Participation/Presentations.

None

4. Review and discuss Commission Priority List

A. Review current priority list

Lighting Ordinance

Chairman Beebe indicated members of the commission should review and study a copy of the draft lighting ordinance and be ready to discuss at the January 20, 2016 meeting. Probably shoot for April or May of 2016 to prepare a packet for presenting the idea to Committee.

Commissioner Symowicz indicated he was approached by residents living in the area of the Town and Country Apartments on West Forest Avenue. He was told they were unhappy with the new lighting installed at the apartments claiming the new lights are very bright. It was thought the matter could be directed to Community Development and code enforcement to ensure lighting installed meets current City code.

There was some recap and additional discussion on the lighting ordinance after commissioner Ferguson arrived. The new street lights on Wood Street were discussed. It was noted that light is cast downward from the fixtures but some thought there was a good deal of bounce or reflective light from them and believed they were LED lights.

LEED

Shoot for the same timeframe as the lighting ordinance to bring to committee.

Holiday Light Recycling

This will take place November 27, 2015 through January 29, 2016. Tim Wilcox made contact with and finalized details with Elgin Recycling and Groot. All is set to go as planned.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

Creation of a Street Light (Request) Policy

At the October 1, 2015 Infrastructure Committee meeting the request was made to have the Environmental Commission work 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.

There are some examples of municipal policies available on line. Commissioner Symowicz indicated the township has a policy which requires a signed petition and shared cost.

The subject of whether street lights actually provide a more secure environment was briefly discussed. Commissioner Ferguson said he read of a study done in Phoenix Arizona which indicated reduced lighting reduced the frequency of graffiti. Not everyone is convinced that lighting prevents crime.

5. Other Business

Commissioner Ferguson inquired about the email he sent regarding the use and installation of cisterns on private property. He was informed the Community Development Department was contacted and they said cisterns are allowed but a building permit would need to be filed and approved by the City first before installing a new one. Existing cisterns are okay to use with no additional requirements.

Members who attended the Winfield Township recycling event indicated it was very successful.

Commissioner Blaus was not in attendance but sent an email indicating over 30 tons of pumpkins were collected in the area, 5400 lbs. in Elmhurst alone.

The next Environmental Commission meeting will be held at 7:00 P.M. on January 20, 2016. The meeting scheduled for December 16, 2015 has been canceled.

6. Adjournment

At 7:55 P.M. Commissioner Symowicz made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Zimmermann seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works