

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 2/17/2016 with changes

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 20, 2016, 7:00 P.M.

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

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

Also in attendance was Assistant Director of Public Works, Tim Wilcox, guest speaker Andrew Van Gorp from Sustain DuPage, and West Chicago resident Reggie Bass (interested in possibly joining the Environmental Commission).

2. Approval of Minutes.

A. **Environmental Commission Minutes of November 18, 2015.** Commissioner Zimmermann moved to approve the minutes of November 18, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Symowicz.

Voting Yea: Commissioners Beebe, Symowicz, Zimmermann, Blaus, Ferguson and Lewis, **Voting Nay:** 0.

3. Public Participation/Presentations.

Chairman Beebe introduced Andrew ~~Van~~ Van Gorp. Mr. ~~Van~~ Van Gorp outlined what will occur at the DuPage County Environmental Commission & Committee Symposium being held 10:00 A.M., Saturday March 12th. This is a first time event for DuPage County and he hopes to get people excited about meeting other Environmental Commissions, and to ultimately form a coalition. He was here to personally invite the West Chicago Environmental Commission to attend sending two members, one to sit in the audience and one to present a PowerPoint presentation on three different prompts:

- 1) What has your Environmental Commission/Committee (COMM) recently accomplished? What are your strengths?
- 2) What are some of your COMM's challenges? Where can you grow?
- 3) Five years from today, where do you hope to be? Optimistically, what do you hope to have accomplished?

After the COMM presentations he will announce the results of the COMM member survey which he handed out to all the commission members. He hopes the survey will help to see what other communities are doing, the extent of their involvement within the local governments the Environmental Movement and illuminate ways that it can grow. Mr. ~~Van~~ Van Gorp indicated the event will be broadcast live on

YouTube and there were also viewing party locations. (More information is available on their website: sustaindupage.com).

Commissioner Zimmermann asked about the goals of Sustain DuPage. Mr. ~~Von~~ Van Gorp shared he is a member of the Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission he gave a brief history of his background and growing up in DuPage County. He established Sustain DuPage in 2014. Mr. ~~Von~~ Van Gorp indicated it is a 501C3 (non-profit) they collect data and hope to improve DuPage County's standings as a green county promoting green initiatives. Commissioner Zimmermann indicated she may be able to assist with UIC collaboration for some of the organizations goals of data collection using student volunteers.

Chairman Beebe asked if anyone was interested in attending the symposium. There was a positive response from the members and Commissioner Zimmerman indicated she could put together a draft PowerPoint presentation prior to the February West Chicago Environmental meeting; Chairman Beebe will email the sample PowerPoint to Commissioner Zimmermann. Commissioner Ferguson offered to present, and Commissioner Blaus indicated he was interested in attending as well.

Mr. ~~Von~~ Van Gorp thanked everyone for allowing him to meet with the Commission and departed shortly after.

4. Review and discuss Commission Priority List

A. Review current priority list

For the benefit of Mr. Bass, and recently appointed Commissioner Tony Lewis, Commissioner Beebe summarized briefly the background, history, goals, and activities of the West Chicago Environmental Commission. Some of the items mentioned were promoting and sponsoring rain barrel sales, recycling and paper shredding events, adopt a highway and Blooming Fest participation. There was also some discussion of electronic recycling.

Lighting Ordinance

Commissioner Ferguson provided a brief overview of the International Dark-Sky Association, Dark-Sky Communities and a draft lighting ordinance which the commission has been discussing and would like to submit to the City for consideration. Commissioner Ferguson shared that he grew up in West Chicago and in his younger days here he was able to see the Milky Way which is not possible now. The ordinance would address light spillage from homes and businesses, the types and shielding of lights and the measures of lumens used to control and approve lighting. Commissioner Ferguson also presented examples of why too much light at night is unhealthy, affecting the body's circadian rhythms, leading to sleep disorders and other physical and mental disorders.

Commissioner Beebe added that with the proposed ordinance, existing lighting would be "grandfathered" (for practical and economic reasons). Mr. Wilcox also shared a number of the points and /or questions provided by City staff after preliminary review of the draft. These included a lack of a lighting zoning map referenced in the draft ordinance (as well as other sections reference but not included), the question of whether the current City ordinance may already address much of what is proposed, should a City consensus be required for this proposed ordinance? (is it what people want or just a small percentage?) It could be viewed as more restrictions placed on residents or developers. It was noted that right-of-way lighting is exempt however street lights may be one of largest contributors to glare and spillover lighting thus reducing the efficacy of the proposed ordinance. It was also questioned if the proposed ordinance had been reviewed by the Police Department from a safety/security prospective (it has not). It was also mentioned Committee would likely ask if there are other neighboring communities that have adopted a Dark-Sky type ordinance similar to the proposed. These were some of the points and questions raised; Commissioner Ferguson asked if he could get a list of all of the points raised.

Creation of a Street Light Request Policy

Chairman Beebe indicated next meeting we should look at, in more detail, the request from Infrastructure Committee 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 was a short discussion relating to the Wood Street lighting. Chairman Beebe asked everyone to do their homework and bring something back next meeting.

LEED

Commissioner Zimmerman provided a summary of what LEED is (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design). She explained we are not looking to require all new construction to use LEED standards. The commission's goal is a resolution for the City of West Chicago to consider using LEED standards for any future new City funded construction projects. Chairman Beebe mentioned talk of a new Municipal Center in West Chicago and stated the Environmental Commission does not want the City to miss an opportunity to have LEED designs incorporated in it.

There was other discussion on the different types of LEED designs besides buildings, such as permeable pavers in parking lots, as there is a big concern with flooding in DuPage County.

Shredding Event

The event is set for June 4, 2016, 9:00 A.M. until noon at the City Hall parking lot. Commissioner Zimmermann indicated she would possibly submit an article to help advertise and increase attendance at the event. Mr. Wilcox said he would provide her with the schedule of deadlines for the City newsletter.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

No new additions.

5. Other Business

Commissioner Blaus shared that he had heard from Kay McKeen, Executive Director at SCARCE, that Sims Recycling Solutions, Inc. has discontinued accepting residential electronics.

Commissioner Blaus also announced the annual Sustainable Design event for High School students. The event encourages participating schools and students to design buildings and landscapes using sustainable design techniques (including LEED strategies to reduce environmental impacts and green infrastructure to capture and treat stormwater runoff). It will take place Tuesday April 5, 2016 with cash prizes being awarded.

6. Adjournment

At 8:35 P.M. Commissioner Blaus made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works