

# CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 3/16/2016 with changes

## MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 17, 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 7:04 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, Kris Zimmermann, John Symowicz, and Mike Ferguson present; Commissioner Tony Lewis arrived late.

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

#### 2. Approval of Minutes.

##### A. Environmental Commission Minutes of January 20, 2015 2016.

Commissioner Zimmermann moved to approve the minutes of January 20, 2015 2016 with changes, seconded by Commissioner Symowicz.

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

Changes are reflected in the approved minutes.

#### 3. Public Participation/Presentations.

None

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

##### A. Review current priority list

Lighting Ordinance

Chairman Beebe asked Mr. Wilcox if he had written an agenda summary for the lighting ordinance (and LEED). Mr. Wilcox responded that during the last meeting discussion on this topic he had mentioned a number of comments and questions from City staff regarding the proposed lighting ordinance. And that Commissioner Ferguson had asked for a list of those comments. One of those comments questioned if the police had reviewed the document from and safety/security point of view. Following the January 2016 meeting Mr. Wilcox sent the lighting

ordinance document to the Police Chief and to the Director of Public Works, and asked for comments. He plans to send a list of all comments and questions to Commissioner Ferguson once all are received. Mr. Wilcox indicated some of the comments and questions were included in the meeting minutes from the January 20, 2016 meeting. There was a brief discussion relating to some of these comments.

## LEED

Mr. Wilcox passed out draft copies of the agenda summary he created for presenting the LEED paper to the Infrastructure Committee. He was seeking input on the precise wording and the extent of the request or action the Commission wished to communicate to the Committee. His summary proposed a resolution to consider using LEED certification for all new City owned facility construction projects, rather than require LEED certification. A majority thought requesting approval of a resolution to only consider LEED did not invoke a serious enough commitment. Mr. Wilcox's intention for using the word "consider" in the above sentence was to leave all options open for future planners. His thoughts were a resolution that effectively ties their hands may not be well received. The subject was discussed at length.

The subject of Environmental Impact studies was briefly discussed. Commissioner Lewis had past experience in the military with building/construction procedures and suggested having LEED design included on a checklist as a requirement to evaluate and compare to other design options.

At the close of discussion it was generally decided the Environmental Commission should present the paper, with some text corrections, to the committee as a first step to gauge their interest, have members of the commission present to lend support and answer any questions, and ask for Committee's direction for using LEED design and/or certification for future construction projects in West Chicago.

## Creation of a Street Light Request Policy

Chairman Beebe asked if anyone had looked on the Web to find information from other communities on the subject of street light request policies. No one indicated that they had. He then said that it is not an easy thing to find information about. One of the few items he came across was a simple policy from Bellevue, Washington. He said we can discuss it more at the next meeting but what he found so far was American National Standards Institute (ANSI) references, the National Dark Sky's recommendations for street lighting, and a San Francisco item but not much more. Some discussion followed; Commissioner Zimmermann said she liked the idea of requiring the person(s) requesting a street light to provide a signed petition from the neighbors indicating they would accept a new light in their neighborhood. The group also felt that not many people would likely request a street light if they had to pay for it and/or the installation fee.

Chairman Beebe said everyone should continue to look and bring back ideas.

## Holiday Light Recycling

Mr. Wilcox announced there ~~was~~ *were* 602 pounds of lights collected and recycled this season.

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

No new additions.

## **5. Other Business**

Commissioner Zimmermann passed out copies of the draft slide show presentation she is preparing for the upcoming DuPage County Environmental Commission & Committee Symposium. She asked for comments and additions. A suggestion to educate the public on the importance of separating trash from recyclables was made for the “Challenges” section of the slide show, and some rewording of another was also made. Some ideas for the “5 years From Now” section were: Residential curbside recycling, a more bicycle friendly City, increased involvement in Storm water management and some other ideas that Commissioner Zimmermann recorded in her notes.

There was a brief discussion regarding biking dangers especially on bike paths crossing at an intersection. Chairman Beebe also mentioned the increased use of painted (or thermoplastic) bike lanes added to new or existing roads, and the increased maintenance required to keep them visible. He also said there was a past study done by a previous West Chicago Environmental Commission (he was a part of) looking to plan and implement safe bike routes throughout the City.

Commissioner Lewis had another engagement to attend and left the meeting at 7:50 P.M.

## **6. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works