

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 4/20/2016

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 16, 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 7:01 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, Kris Zimmermann, Mike Ferguson and Bob Blaus present; Commissioners Tony Lewis, and John Symowicz were absent.

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

2. Approval of Minutes.

A. Environmental Commission Minutes of February 17, 2016. Commissioner Zimmermann moved to approve the minutes of February 17, 2016 with changes, seconded by Commissioner Ferguson.

Voting Yea: Commissioners Beebe, Zimmermann, Ferguson and Blaus, 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

Mr. Wilcox indicated that he does not have a complete list of review comments from City staff relating to the proposed lighting ordinance to share yet. He indicated he will need to meet with the Director of Public works and the Director of Community Development before it can be finalized. He will try to have this done by the April 20, 2016 meeting.

LEED

Commissioner Zimmermann indicated she had made changes to the LEED document suggested at the February 17, 2016 meeting and emailed this to the members of the commission.

Mr. Wilcox handed out a revised copy of the draft agenda summary for review. He will also email the Word document to the group.

There was some discussion regarding existing public buildings in the area that are LEED Certified. Some of the buildings mentioned were: Villa Park's Police Department, School District 200's Hubble Middle School (Herrick Road & Galusha Avenue in Warrenville), DuPage Health Department (County Farm Road and Manchester), and Naperville's Public Works building.

Commissioner Zimmermann suggested adding text to the agenda summary tying LEED to Healthy West Chicago. Perhaps mentioning some of the harsh chemicals, such as formaldehyde, that may be found in some building materials. She will think of something to write. She also indicated she has spoken with Alderman Beifuss on occasion and he is interested and looking forward to hearing more about LEED and the proposed lighting ordinance.

Creation of a Street Light Request Policy

Chairman Beebe asked if anyone had done any research on the subject. No one indicated they had. He then passed around information he found on Belleview Washington's website related to the subject. There was a discussion that followed. Establishing criteria for approving or denying street light placement was mentioned. It was suggested that a review of West Chicago's City Code should be completed to glean any existing information and/or requirements already in place for distances, style or types of lighting.

Commissioner Ferguson shared some of his frustration with the street lights in his area of town that shine out in all direction rather than down on the ground. Chairman Beebe indicated a similar situation on Colford Avenue.

Rain Barrels

Rain Barrel sales start on April 1, 2016. Chairman Beebe indicated he will send out information and include Rosemary Mackey in the dispatch. The question of who prints out the water bills came up. It was suggested the rain barrel sale be advertised in the bill. Mr. Wilcox was not sure who printed the bills or if such a note could be added. He will inquire about it. Commissioner Zimmermann indicated the deadline for the City newsletter is March 31, 2016 and she is willing to submit an article about rain barrel sales and the paper shredding event. Commissioner Beebe will send here copies of previous year's informational releases.

Adopt A Highway

This spring's cleanup is scheduled for April 30, 2016 at 8:00 A.M.

Blooming Fest

The topic of what activities and/or information to provide at the booth this year was discussed. Commissioner Blaus suggested providing information on when and where to recycle items, especially electronic items. The solar house may not be available since it is currently being repaired. Commissioner Blaus will check on the status. Having a rain barrel present again was mentioned, (former commission member) Steve Carrow's recycling bin game was mentioned, as well as the map and sign up for adopt a highway.

Commissioner Blaus suggested something to hand out. He was willing to order and donate peat moss disks and marigold seeds to create a hand-out kit for kids to grow flowers. Groot was mentioned as a

possible source for recycling education material, including an online video demonstrating the sorting of recyclables. Commissioner Blaus thinks he can rig up a battery powered inverter to view it at the booth if a DVD could be obtained.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

No new additions.

5. Other Business

Commissioner Ferguson shared information about the first DuPage County Environmental Commission & Committee Symposium that he attended and where he presented a PowerPoint slide show created by Commissioner Zimmermann. It highlighted the West Chicago Environmental Commission's activities and achievements. He was the first to arrive. Twelve other communities were also represented, and seven minute slide shows from each community were presented in alphabetical order. Wheaton and Westmont followed his presentation (Kay McKeen presented for Wheaton). From the slide shows and conversation with the various community representatives he learned some of what other communities are involved in. Glen Ellyn has placed compacting trash receptacles in areas of their downtown business district. Batavia has a lot going on including a community garden. Lombard has an incentive program with some form of reimbursement for purchasing compost bins and rain barrels. A number of communities provide recycling for batteries and Downers Grove has experimented using permeable pavers in a public parking lot and at least one street. They use only sand and beet juice for ice control on these. The pavers seem to work good in the parking lot however, some heaving in the street occurred. Many communities had similar rain barrel and holiday light recycling events and all said public awareness (of the Environmental Commission/Committee) was one of their major obstacles. These are just some of the things he recalled, Commissioner Ferguson indicated a YouTube video documenting the symposium will be released and it will provide more details of what the other communities are doing. The organizers are looking to hold this event semi-annually. Food was provided by a local bakery and farm(s).

Commissioner Blaus called and left a message for Mike Horsley to see if the First United Methodist Church was interested in hosting a talk by Jim Kleinwachter from the Conservation Foundation.

Commissioner Ferguson mentioned he heard Winfield was installing a bike path along the DuPage River, crossing at Roosevelt Road and connecting to the Blackwell Forest Preserve.

6. Adjournment

At 8:18 P.M. Commissioner Blaus 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