

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 5/18/2016 with changes

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 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, John Symowicz, and Mike Ferguson present; Commissioners Tony Lewis, and Bob Blaus were absent.

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

2. Approval of Minutes.

A. Environmental Commission Minutes of March 16, 2016. Commissioner Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Zimmermann.

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

3. Public Participation/Presentations.

None

4. Review and discuss Commission Priority List.

A. Review current priority list

Lighting Ordinance

Mr. Wilcox indicated that he still without a complete list of review comments from City staff relating to the proposed lighting ordinance. 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 again to have this done by the next meeting.

LEED

Mr. Wilcox indicated he had not revised the draft agenda summary yet. He will do this shortly and send to the Public Works Director for review and direction on how to proceed.

Creation of a Street Light Request Policy

Commissioner Symowicz indicated he had reviewed the City Code on lighting requirements and said it was better than he had previously thought; he touched on some of the requirements of the code such as, all new lighting must meet lighting guidelines, as well as mentioning specific distances between street lights. Commissioner Ferguson indicated he will look into it as well. No one else had anything to add to the discussion. Chairman Beebe indicated he will look up the appropriate section of the code and bring the link to the next meeting. There was some additional discussion on City code and how it is interpreted.

Rain Barrels/Paper Shredding

Commissioner Zimmermann indicated she submitted an article to Rosemary Mackey announcing the rain barrel sales and the paper shredding event. There was discussion about the decline in sales of rain barrels from the first year but sales seemed to be fairly consistent each year thereafter. Chairman Beebe indicated no replies from people he contacted regarding the Conservation Foundations offer to provide an educational presentation on a subject related to water conservation. He asked the commission members to try to come up with names of any other groups that might be interested. Commissioner Zimmermann asked about the library hosting it. Chairman Beebe said they did host it once previously but it was held at the same time and day as a Garden Club meeting and there was little or no attendance at the library presentation.

Chairman Beebe indicated he will not be able to attend the June 4, 2016 paper shredding and rain barrel pickup event.

Adopt A Highway

This spring's cleanup is scheduled for April 30, 2016 at 8:30 A.M. instead of 8:00 A.M. This is the same day as the Prairie Path cleanup event.

Chairman Beebe talked about trying to get more groups and businesses involved in the program.

Blooming Fest

Commissioner Blaus indicated in an email he had peat pellets, Marigold seeds, and fliers to hand out at the event. He also indicated the Solar House had already been reserved by someone else so was not available for Booming Fest. Mr. Wilcox will contact Groot to ask for recycling educational materials to hand out as well as a copy of their recycling video they have online.

Chairman Beebe will bring the tent and a rain barrel for the booth. Mr. Wilcox will arrange for a table. All manning the booth should bring their own chair.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

Monarch Butterfly Pledge

Information on this subject was received in an email from Judith Horsley. Mr. Wilcox will send it to all of the commission members for discussion at the next meeting.

5. Other Business

Commissioner ~~Zimmerman~~ *Ferguson* asked if there was an updated Environmental Commission member's roster. Mr. Wilcox indicated he will update and email it to all of the members.

There was discussion related to recycling in the area. Commissioner Symowicz read an article which indicated people are being charged a fee for electronic recycling. Groot takes electronics at no charge to residents each Saturday at their Powis Road Transfer Station.

Commissioner Symowicz announced he had signed up for a West Branch Project (DuPage River) bus tour held Thursday April 28, at 8:30 A.M. to noon. The DuPage County Stormwater Management's staff is offering the guided tour of several award-winning projects that have been completed along the West Branch DuPage River over the past 10 years from Carol Stream through Naperville, including: Restoration of an EPA Superfund cleanup site, wetland and rare fen restoration, dam removal projects, an Urban Stream Research Center, and ongoing flood mitigation projects, including a re-meander of the river. He will provide a recap of the tour at the next meeting.

Mr. Wilcox was asked by Rosemary Mackey to inquire if any of the commission members knew of any battery recycling in West Chicago. None of the members were aware of any locations in West Chicago. Commissioner Symowicz thought ~~Downer~~ *Downers* Grove was the only city in the area that had battery recycling.

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