

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved with changes 7/20/2016

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

June 15, 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, Bob Blaus, Mike Ferguson, Tony Lewis and Bethany Brown present. Commissioner Kris Zimmermann arrived just after Roll was taken. Commissioner John Symowicz arrived at 7:05 P.M. but informed the Commission he would not be able to attend tonight's meeting.

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

2. Approval of Minutes.

A. Environmental Commission Minutes of May 18, 2016. Commissioner Blaus made a motion to approve the minutes of April 20, 2016 with changes, seconded by Commissioner Zimmermann.

Voting Yea: Commissioners Beebe, Zimmermann, Ferguson, Blaus, Lewis, and Brown. 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 a discussion between City staff is still pending and he will attempt to schedule a meeting prior to the next Environmental Commission meeting.

LEED

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Creation of a Street Light Request Policy

Environmental Commission Meeting
June 15, 2016
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Ruben Pineda
MAYOR
Nancy M. Smith
CITY CLERK

Michael L. Guttman
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Chairman Beebe described the task of formulating this policy that was handed to the Commission by the Infrastructure Committee. Commissioner Lewis volunteered to head up this topic.

Blooming Fest

Commissioner's staffing the booth at Blooming Fest indicated the event had gone very well. The Marigold seeds were very popular with the kids and they brought parents to the booth. The giveaway chip clips were a big draw to the booth and got people talking about recycling. Groot's Recycling 101 guide/flyer printed in both English and Spanish was also very well received. The Commission would like to see the recycling guide added to the City website. Many of the other various hand-outs related to storm water management, water conservation, and rain barrels were chip clipped together into informational packets to give away. The proximity to ~~S.C.A.R.C.E.~~'s *S.C.A.R.C.E.*'s booth was also beneficial and enjoyable for the group. We also heard the Garden Club did very well.

There were a number of questions people asked including how to best dispose of latex paint, what can and can't be thrown away or recycled, and will the City pass a resolution for the Monarch butterfly pledge? Also, many people indicated they did not believe their recyclables were being sorted or didn't understand the sorting process that takes place at the Groot facility. There is a good video on their website that shows the process.

Commissioner Blaus said he will inquire to see if the Solar House may be available to borrow for next year's event. We will also contact Groot again next year to see if they will provide give away items.

Paper Shredding/Rain Barrel Pickup

The June 4, 2016 paper shredding and rain barrel pickup event was a big success. Participation in this year's paper shredding portion of the event was more than the last three years combined. 245 individual drop-offs of paper to be shredded and recycled were recorded. The truck left with 6.83 tons (13,660 lbs.) of shredded paper. There were a total of 8 rain barrels sold through the City's website link to Upcycle Products, Inc. There were also a number of accessories purchased including 3 barrel stands made from old repurposed fence slats and posts. All were picked up during the event. The event did create some traffic backups on Main Street. At times cars were lined up almost to the Kruse House waiting to get into the City Hall parking lot.

Monarch Butterfly Pledge

This subject was tabled at the May 2016 meeting due to preparations required for Blooming Fest and also so more information on the subject could be gathered. Chairman Beebe indicated the pledge and sample resolution we received are ~~strait~~-straight forward and he found nothing objectionable in them. The question is what do we (the Environmental Commission) propose to recommend that the City will be willing to do to fulfill and promote the pledge.

He pointed out that there are a number of acres of land in and around the City owned by the Forest Preserve and the Park District where ~~Milk-Weed~~ *Milkweed* already exists. Commissioner Zimmermann added that she read that lack of ~~Milk-Weed~~ *Milkweed* was only a part of the problem the butterfly faces and there is much more to it than that. Chairman Beebe said certain pesticides (Neonicotinoids) are more harmful to Monarchs and their larva. This is due to the way the pesticide is absorbed into all parts of the plant material making it completely toxic to the insects. Pesticides containing this chemical may not be that readily available in our area but they are extensively used by farmers and available in more rural areas.

There are numerous Districts around the City, which the City has no control over, with 100's of acres of land that may have a greater impact on the Monarch's ability to survive in this area.

Homework will be what to recommend the City should do to promote the Monarch pledge.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None.

5. Other Business

Introductions were made to welcome Commissioner Bethany Brown, the newest member to the Environment Commission. Chairman Beebe provided an overview of the Commissions purpose, past projects, accomplishments, and all of the members took part in introducing and discussing current projects as well as the various events the Commission attends and/or sponsors.

It was decided that the Commission will meet again July 20, 2016 but the August 17, 2016 meeting will be canceled.

6. Adjournment

At 8:20 P.M. Commissioner Blaus made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works