

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved with changes 9/14/2016

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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

Also in attendance was Assistant Director of Public Works, Tim Wilcox and West Chicago residents Mike Horsley, Judi Horsley, and Matthew Matouser.

2. Approval of Minutes.

A. Environmental Commission Minutes of June 15, 2016. Commissioner Zimmermann made a motion to approve the minutes of June 15, 2016 with changes, seconded by Commissioner Ferguson.

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

Changes are reflected in the approved minutes.

3. Public Participation/Presentations.

Mr. Horsley provided a brief introduction and explained why they were attending tonight's meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Horsley were at the meeting to promote the Monarch Butterfly Pledge. Chairman Beebe gave a brief overview of the Commissions involvement on the subject. He indicated the Commission received the information that Mrs. Horsley had previously sent in an email and at the May 18th meeting the topic was added to the New Additions to Priority List. The topic was tabled for further study and also in order to focus on preparing for Blooming Fest which was held on May 21st. At the June 15, 2016 Environmental Commission Meeting The topic was discussed. The main question raised to the group was what the Environmental Commission proposes to recommend, that the City will be willing to do, to fulfill and promote the pledge.

Mrs. Horsley indicated that they are *part of* a group that can help the City do something. For the last three years they have passed out milkweed seeds at Blooming Fest (Milkweed is the only plant where a Monarch will lay its eggs). She has attended seminars on Monarch butterfly stewardship. Her church, the First United Methodist Church of West Chicago, has a Certified Monarch Waystation. She provided a copy of a handout they created to help and encourage residents to plant a native gardens in their own yards. These gardens will benefit all pollinators and are also key components for reducing storm water runoff. She said they are willing to share the handout and Milkweed seed with the Commission. The Horsley's believe the Monarch pledge will be a benefit to the City and other groups who get involved.

They have also contacted Healthy West Chicago regarding the pledge. Chairman Beebe asked if they had contacted the Prairie Stewardship. The indication was they had not.

Commissioner Zimmermann asked, why just focus on Monarchs and not all pollinators? Mrs. Horsey agrees all are important however the Monarch is the State insect and travels great distances up to 3,000 miles. It is the only butterfly to do a round trip migration of this distance. The Coneflower which is the City flower is a favorite of the Monarch and everything in the Monarch pledge will benefit other pollinators as well. She also said that many people living in West Chicago came from the area in Mexico where the Monarch migrates to and from. The Horsley's recently saw Monarchs for the first time this year, one at their home garden, and one at the church. The Monarch population is also challenged by deforestation in Mexico and by farmers in the U.S. destroying Milkweed which used to grow at the edges of planted fields.

The other attendee at the meeting was asked to introduce himself. He introduced himself as Matthew Matouser. He is a resident of West Chicago and lives in the Cornerstone Lakes Subdivision. He said he's a High School Senior and Member of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) working towards achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. He said attending our Environmental Commission would help him achieve that rank.

4. Review and discuss Commission Priority List.

A. Review current priority list

Monarch Butterfly Pledge

Chairman Beebe brought a good deal of printed information on the topic as well as a copy of the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch pledge. He read through the introduction and action items of the pledge with the group. The pledge was made up of three broad categories: communication & convening, program & demonstration gardens, and systems changes. It was generally agreed that the City would likely be able to make good on the pledge which requires the Mayor or local government commit to implement at least three of the listed action items. No one was aware if Milkweed was listed as a noxious weed in the City's code of ordinances so that would need to be checked. Commissioner Zimmermann mentioned she read a novel titled *Flight Behavior* which highlights the migratory patterns and survival modes of the Monarch butterfly. She wondered if the library would get involved by adding the novel to the book club. Commissioner Beebe will bring a list of action items he believes the City can achieve for the pledge to the next meeting. He asked that the group thinks about any other ideas to add to the list.

Lighting Ordinance

Mr. Wilcox indicated a discussion between City staff was held. During that discussion it was related that the ordinance itself is usually the last part in the process of initiating a change to the current lighting section of the City Code. He discussed the process of research and written reporting that would be necessary to present to Committee(s) in order to inform and gain support for the proposed ordinance change. Mr. Wilcox also passed out a list of comments provided by staff.

LEED

Mr. Wilcox indicated this topic was also discussed with City staff at the same meeting the lighting ordinance topic was discussed. Comments included the LEED paper is still abstract and should indicate a specific project for LEED design such as a New City Hall. It should provide more details, illustrations and success stories from other communities which include costs, benefits, and the return or payback for the LEED components in the designs. Written comments were also provided to the group. Mr. Wilcox also reminded the group that the draft agenda was reworded to request a Resolution committing the City to use LEED standards on all new City building projects. He felt it was this request which prompted a desire from staff for more specific details and supporting documentation to provide Committee with enough information to be able to make a responsible decision for the request.

Creation of a Street Light Request Policy

Commissioner Lewis who volunteered to head up this topic was not in attendance so the topic was tabled.

Paper Shredding/Rain Barrel Pickup

Mr. Wilcox indicated he has already scheduled the date for the next event with Accurate Document and Destruction, Inc. It again will be held on the first Saturday in June (June 3, 2017).

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None.

5. Other Business

None.

6. Adjournment

At 8:20 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