

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**Wednesday, December 14, 2016
7:00 p.m. – Committee Room A**

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order Establish a Quorum**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **Environmental Commission Meeting of November 16, 2016**
3. **Public Participation/Presentations**
4. **Review and Discuss Commission Priority List**
 - A. **Current List**
 - B. **New Additions**
5. **Other Business**
6. **Adjournment**

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MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

November 16, 2016, 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum.

Chairman Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, Kris Zimmermann, John Symowicz, Mike Ferguson, Bethany Brown, and Bob Blaus present. Commissioner Tony Lewis was absent.

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

2. Approval of Minutes.

A. Environmental Commission Minutes of October 19, 2016. Commissioner Symowicz made a motion to approve the minutes of October 19, 2016 with changes, seconded by Commissioner Blaus.

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

Changes are reflected in the approved minutes.

3. Public Participation/Presentations.

None

4. Review and discuss Commission Priority List.

A. Review current priority list

Monarch Butterfly Pledge

Commissioner Blaus brought in samples of teaching aids he made and talked of his ideas to use school children to help meet the requirements of the pledge, teaching aids were root boxes, which demonstrate the long roots of various native plants, he also mentioned a letter to school principals about the goal to help the Monarch butterfly that the Commission could draft for the mayor's signature. He also suggested items listed on the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge Action Items list, which the City could commit to implement (3 required). Some of the suggestions include issuing a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the Monarch butterfly and need for habitat, print articles in the City newsletter encouraging citizens to plant native (Monarch) gardens, speak with garden clubs about planting native milkweed and nectar producing plants, host or support a native plant sale or milkweed seed giveaway event, and facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort, which could be part of Blooming Fest. It was also suggested the City could plant a Monarch friendly demonstration garden perhaps at City Hall since the area in front of City Hall is currently mostly void of plantings.

Commissioner Zimmermann asked who would do the school education part for the pledge. Commissioner Blaus responded that he and Kay (McKeen) have contacts at the schools and have ideas for lesson plans. He also mentioned again the letter to principals outlining the pledge and discussed encouraging the schools to landscape with native plants. Commissioner Zimmerman thought it might be difficult to convince the schools to landscape with native plants, as it's probably much easier to mow grass than maintain native habitats.

A presentation on native planting from the Conservation Foundation was discussed and their programs for helping homeowners and businesses to plan and establish native planting gardens which help pollinators and also control water runoff. The idea of tying the Pledge in with the Mayors Weekly walks was also brought up. Suggesting a walk through Ball seed, and /or the First United Methodist Church of West Chicago, where both have a Certified Monarch Waystation.

Before the next meeting Commission Blaus will work on the write up for the Monarch pledge to be presented to the Infrastructure Committee for their review.

Lighting Ordinance

No progress to report since last month's meeting.

LEED

No progress to report since last month's meeting.

Creation of a Street Light Request Policy

Commissioner Lewis was not present so this topic was not discussed.

Holiday Light Recycling

The agreement with Elgin Recycling was signed and returned, Groot was contacted and they will provide recycling bins for this season's collection of holiday lights. It was suggested the ARC Center be added to the list of drop off locations but the Park District had not been contacted yet. The other locations will be City Hall, Ace Hardware, West Chicago Public Library, First United Methodist Church, and the Water Treatment Plant.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None.

5. Other Business

It was decided to move next month's meeting to December 14, 2016 rather than cancel the meeting for December.

Commissioner Blaus mentioned First United Methodist Church will try to host pumpkin recycling next year. He said they are currently working on it now. He also said that Winfield Township is only accepting cooking oil for recycling on Mondays between 7:00 – 11:00 AM. He asked if the City would consider arranging to accept cooking oil at one of its facilities Monday – Friday as well as host a Saturday after Thanksgiving event again next year. He will forward information on the program to Mr. Wilcox.

Commissioner Zimmermann thought it would be good if the City would participate in the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. Take-Back events like these raise awareness of the opioid epidemic, and offer the public a safe and anonymous way to help prevent substance abuse and reduce drinking water contamination (flushing medicine down the toilet). The West Chicago Police currently have a drop box for prescription medicine in the lobby at the station. She was not sure how many people are aware of it and thought Walgreens would be a more visible place to hold a take-back event.

6. Adjournment

At 7:50 P.M. Commissioner Blaus made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works