

# CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 9/13/2017

## MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

August 16, 2017, 7:00 P.M.

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

Chairman Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, Bethany Brown, John Symowicz, and Kris Zimmermann present, Commissioner Blaus arrived at 7:08 P.M.

Also in attendance was Assistant Director of Public Works, Tim Wilcox, Marilee Summers, and Storm Summers.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes.

- A. **Environmental Commission Minutes of June 21, 2017. Commissioner Zimmermann made a motion to approve the minutes of June 21, 2017 with one change, seconded by Commissioner Brown.**

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

Change is reflected in the approved minutes.

#### 3. Public Participation/Presentations.

Chairman Beebe gave Marilee and Storm Summers the opportunity to introduce themselves and share their reason for attending the meeting. Marilee is Storm's mother and Storm is a Boy Scout in Troup 23 attending school at Wheaton Academy. He is working to achieve the rank of Life Scout and is attending the meeting to earn his Citizenship in the Community Badge. Storm shared some of the other activities he was doing for community involvement and members shared some of the goals and activities of the Environmental Commission.

#### 4. Review and discuss Commission Priority List.

##### A. Review current priority list

##### Monarch Butterfly Pledge

Commissioner Blaus shared his idea to promote the monarch butterfly waystation at City Hall as an example to others, especially commuters at the train station, of what they can do at their own homes. He'd like to create a brochure that could be available in printed form at City Hall and also online. He suggested placing a sign with a QR scan code that would link to the brochure. Commissioner Zimmermann uses the

train and didn't believe there was too much commuter foot traffic going by the waystation due to where it is situated. She suggested talking to the library about installing a monarch waystation there.

#### Street Light Request Policy

Chairman Beebe indicated he will bring a draft Street Light Policy to the next meeting to review and discuss.

#### LEED

Not discussed and on hold until Cool DuPage program is researched more.

#### Lighting Ordinance

Commissioner Zimmermann said she attended the Environmental Commissions & Committees of DuPage County (EC3) August 5, 2017 meeting. She indicated EC3 has taken on "Starry Skies" as their first policy focus for 2017-2018. Drew Carhart from the Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting, who helped Homer Glen and Campton Hills develop their lighting ordinances was at the meeting and gave an informative presentation dealing with the negative effects of light pollution and ways to establish responsible lighting. EC3 was looking for a lead community in DuPage County to take on a lighting ordinance designed to reduce light pollution in their community. Commissioner Zimmermann mentioned to them that West Chicago had been slowly working on this. They were very excited to hear this she said. Andrew Van Gorp would like to reach out to the West Chicago Environmental Commission to discuss this issue further. She will follow up with Alderman Ferguson and the Mayor to see if there is City Council interest in pursuing a lead rule for a Dark Skies lighting ordinance. Chairman Beebe suggested asking Mr. Carhart if he would come to West Chicago to give his presentation at an open forum or City Council meeting. It was agreed to postpone plans to try to do something like this until October when the sun sets earlier at night.

#### Adopt A Highway

Chairman Beebe indicated he would like to step up promotion of this program. Now that General Mills is gone only the Environmental Commission and Cub Scout Pack 151 remain in the program. Commissioner Brown added she was interested in getting Ball Seed to adopt a section of roadway and asked about the application procedure and available roads to adopt. This topic was discussed at some length and there were suggestions made to send information to some of the larger companies in the City and also contacting the Chamber of Commerce to help get the word out about the program. The next Commission adopt a highway cleanup will be Saturday October 14, 2017

#### Holiday Light Recycling

Mr. Wilcox indicated he had contacted Elgin Recycling about the program and found they are going to provide the service again this season; he will make arrangements with them. He will also contact Groot to arrange for the recycling totes. Drop off locations was also discussed and the usual locations will be contacted. The Park District's Arc Center was thought to be a possible location as well.

#### **B. Discuss new additions to priority list**

None.



## **5. Other Business**

Commissioner Blaus provided a brief summary of the Winfield Township Recycling Extravaganza to be held Saturday September 30, 2017 9:00 A.M. to Noon, rain or shine. This year there's a \$10.00 charge per car load for electronics and various charges for paint depending on size of container. The flier is available online. Commissioner Blaus said last year there were a number of West Chicago residents bringing electronics to the township event that didn't know about the free electronics recycling benefit they have through the City's contract with Groot. He will be working the event and plans to let West Chicago resident know about it. On the same day SCARCE is hosting their Green Fair event at the DuPage County Fairgrounds from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Commissioner Blaus shared that he was contacted via email by Mike Horsley about plans to have the First United Methodist Church of West Chicago sponsor a Pumpkin Collection Event on Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. in the Church Parking Lot. Mr. Horsley asked to get in contact with the event coordinator for City permitting and approval. He also asked if the Environmental Commission would consider co-hosting the event and arrange to provide a free compost dumpster for the event. There was discussion about the event and the success it has had in other communities and speculation as to how well it will do in West Chicago. Information received from Kay McKeen indicated she would arrange for a dumpster for the event through the Church's contracted waste hauler Republic. Commission members discussed co-sponsoring, and Mr. Wilcox indicated if the West Chicago Environmental Commission voted to sponsor, or co-sponsor the event the City would be able to provide a dumpster if needed for the event. This item will be placed on the agenda for the September 2017 Environmental Commission meeting.

Commissioner Blaus asked when the current Waste Removal and Recycling contract with Groot will end. He wants to start looking at it for future electronic waste and food recycling. Both Chairman Beebe and Mr. Wilcox believed it was 2019. Chairman Beebe indicated it should be looked at about a year in advance of the end of the contract period.

Commissioner Zimmermann mentioned another guest at the EC3 meeting was Peggy McGrath from Go Green Oak Park. She spoke at the meeting about the harmful effects of pesticides and to gain support to urge the state of Illinois to repeal the preemption of local government regulation of pesticides and re-establish the right of local home rule governments to adopt pesticide restrictions on public and private land within their jurisdiction, as they deem appropriate.

Commissioner Zimmermann did more research on partnering with the County's Cool DuPage effort to reduce energy consumption. She shared some information from their website and read off a list of suggestions for partner participation. It was suggested that a County representative could be contacted to possibly attend a meeting to discuss and explain more about the Cool DuPage effort and benefits of the program. Commissioner Zimmermann will contact the County to see if this is a possibility.

Commissioner Zimmermann also mentioned she will not have time to attend a Cultural Arts Commission meeting for the next few months.

## **6. Adjournment**

At 8:15 P.M. Commissioner Blaus 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