

# CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 1/17/2018

## MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

December 6, 2017, 7:00 P.M.

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

Chairman Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, Bob Blaus, John Symowicz, and Bethany Brown present. Commissioner Kris Zimmermann arrived at 7:10 P.M.

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

#### 2. Approval of Minutes.

- A. **Environmental Commission Minutes of October 18, 2017. Commissioner Blaus made a motion to approve the minutes of October 18, 2017 seconded by Commissioner Brown.**

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

#### 3. Public Participation/Presentations.

None

#### 4. Items For Consent

None

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

- A. **Review current priority list**

Monarch Butterfly Pledge

Mr. Wilcox mentioned that an update of the pledged action items completed will need to be sent to the National Wildlife Federation at the end of the year.

Street Light Request Policy

This topic was not discussed.

Cool DuPage Program

Environmental Commission Meeting  
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Ruben Pineda  
MAYOR  
Nancy M. Smith  
CITY CLERK

Michael L. Guttman  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

This topic was not discussed.

### Pumpkin Recycling Event

One ton of pumpkins were collected at the West Chicago Environmental/ First United Methodist Church of West Chicago co-hosted Pumpkin Collection Event. The weather on the day of collection (Saturday after Halloween) was cold and wet, which may have kept people from coming to the event. The total collected was similar to the amount SCARCE collected according to Commissioner Blaus, so it was not too bad for the first time. The 30 yard roll off dumpster was larger than needed and made it more difficult to throw the pumpkins into. The roll off was equipped with a hand operated mechanical devise to open the rear gate on the dumpster. Opening the gate would have allowed walking access into the dumpster. Commissioner Blaus said there was a total of 73 tons of pumpkins collected area wide which was a large increase compared to the previous four year total of 93 tons.

### Lighting Ordinance

Commissioner Zimmermann said she met with the Environmental Commissions & Committees of DuPage County (EC3) on December 1, 2017 and discussed this subject with them. She said Andrew Van Gorp, Chairman of the EC3 said they will offer to help with planning and put in the effort to help get an ordinance passed in West Chicago to serve as a model for the rest of the County. They asked who and if there were other organizations in the community that will be supportive of the effort. Commissioner Zimmermann said the subject of light pollution has been in the media lately and seems to be trending as more people are talking about the health benefits of regulated light/darkness.

Commissioner Zimmermann passed out information on the requirements to be recognized as an International Dark-Sky Community. The International Dark-Sky Association was apparently contacted and said there has not been an International Dark-Sky County yet, so DuPage could be the first. Numerous questions were brought up during the discussion of the handed out materials detailing the requirements for becoming an International Dark-Sky Community. Many of the requirements seem very stringent and unlike the Flagstaff sample ordinance, would require municipal lighting to conform as well (within 5 years from the ordinance approval date).

There was discussion again about the best way to invite Drew Carhart to present his views on light pollution so Alderman would have a chance to attend and yet also deliver his message to a larger public audience, at the library for instance. Chairman Beebe believes it should be presented to a larger audience to help inform and build a following, as well as gauge resident support for an ordinance. He said he would talk to the Garden Club to see if there is interest to host an event. Commissioner Blaus attempted to phone Mike Horsley during the meeting to ask if First United Methodist Church of West Chicago would be interested in hosting an event. There was no answer.

Next step will be to try to organize with other groups to find support for the ordinance and plan on sometime in March 2018 to possibly have Drew Carhart come out.

### Adopt A Highway

Commissioner Brown indicated Ball Horticultural Company received a letter from the City confirming the approval of Ball's adoption of two sections of Roosevelt Road (Route 38) from Town Road to Wegner Lane and Wegner Lane to Washington Street.

### Holiday Light Recycling

The recycling carts are all in place and collection began the week of Thanksgiving.

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

None.

**6. Other Business**

The Winfield Township Recycling Extravaganza held Saturday September 30, 2017 was discussed briefly. There was enough recycled paper to fill a paper shredding truck at the event and there were many people dropping off electronics for \$10.00 a car load.

Commissioner Blaus mentioned the SCARCE was having their open house December 7, 2017 from 2:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. He said food snacks and wine would be provided.

**7. Adjournment**

At 7:59 P.M. Commissioner Symowicz made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Blaus seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works