

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved with changes 9/19/2018

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

August 22, 2018, 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, Bob Blaus, Joe Cavataio, and Bethany Brown present.

Also in attendance was Assistant Director of Public Works, Tim Wilcox, and Green Disciples Judi and Michael Horsley from the First United Methodist Church.

2. Approval of Minutes.

- A. **Environmental Commission Minutes of June 20, 2018.** Commissioner Blaus made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Symowicz to approve the meeting minutes of June 20, 2018.

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

3. Public Participation/Presentations.

Judi and Michael Horsley were present to discuss plans for pumpkin recycling at the First United Methodist Church and to ask if the Environmental Commission would support by co-sponsoring the event. They also asked if the City would be willing to arrange and supply the dumpster again for this year's event but not a 30 yard roll-off. The 30 yard dumpster was way too big last year. The day and time of the event will be the same as last year on the first Saturday after Halloween (November 3, 2018) from 9am – 1pm. The Horsley's mentioned they would contact the High School's Environmental Club and some Cub/Boy Scout groups for more volunteers and the Park and School Districts to help advertise the event. Mr. Wilcox Indicated the City would be willing to arrange for the dumpster if the Environmental Commission co-sponsored the event. **Commissioner Blaus made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to agree to co-sponsor the Pumpkin Recycling event.**

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

The Horsley's had other topics to discuss. Judi indicated Rosemary Mackey, Marketing & Communications Coordinator for West Chicago, contacted her about America in Bloom and asked her if she had any ideas of what to do to keep it going in West Chicago. Judi mentioned achieving the 3 flags from SCARCE for 1 - Ecology, 2 - Water, and 3 - Earth. She said these are usually awarded in the spring and during Blooming Fest would be good timing to receive them. Information on how to achieve these flags is on the SCARCE website. The Horsley's also thought having curbside food scrap composting in West Chicago would be another way to keep America in Bloom going, all relating to the environmental portion of the America in Bloom judging.

There was much discussion about these ideas and recycling in general. It was mentioned there is a lot of contamination in residential recycling in West Chicago according to reports received from Groot. Commissioner Zimmerman thought there should be efforts made to teach residents first why they should recycle and then work toward what and how to recycle properly. The City's contract with Groot Waste and Recycling ends in 2019 so there was discussion about contacting a representative to attend a future meeting to discuss curbside food composting as well as formulating ideas and suggestions to include in the next contract.

The ~~Horsley's~~ *Horsleys* also talked about the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Judi said she has raised 50 monarchs to date and estimates she will probably raise and release about 70 total when all done. It was also mentioned that according to a new analysis from the U.S. Geological Survey, 1.8 billion new milkweed stems are needed to reverse losses in the monarch's North Central range and apparently more females are being hatched than males studies show.

Commissioner Blaus ~~provide~~ *provided* the ~~Horsley's~~ *Horsleys* with 10 "Drains to River" medallions which he had received from Kay McKeen of SCARCE to give to them. Mr. Wilcox asked to wait before placing these on any City owned inlets until he could send out a map of approved areas to place them.

Chairman Beebe said the group should plan to discuss at next month's meeting the SCARCE flags and what is involved to achieve them.

4. Items For Consent

None

5. Review and discuss Commission Priority List.

A. Review current priority list

Adopt A Highway

Mr. Wilcox delivered 3 original Adopt A Highway agreements for signature to Chairman Beebe. The original agreement made some years back ~~indicted~~ *indicated* only a 2 year term for the agreement and had expired. The current agreement ~~approve~~ *approved* by the City Council at the August 6, 2018 City Council meeting has a minimum term of 2 years and will continue in full effect until such time notice of termination is provided by mutual agreement between the Commission and the City. The next pick up date for the Commission is scheduled for October 13, 2018. Commissioner Beebe indicated he will need more trash bags soon.

Lighting Ordinance

Commissioner Zimmermann explained the ~~Commissions~~ *Commission's* original efforts to adopt a lighting ordinance that would require responsible lighting in West Chicago and the goal to be recognized as an International Dark Sky Community, also what Sustain DuPage is and their effort to make DuPage the first Dark Sky County with West Chicago as the pilot community for this goal. There was no recent progress to report.

There was some discussion about the having Drew Carhart come to the City to give a presentation on light pollution and how to generate more community involvement and interest in making West Chicago a

Dark Sky community. Commissioner Zimmermann said she will work on preparing a time line of steps to get this moving.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None.

6. Other Business

Welcomes and introductions were made to Commissioner Joe Cavataio, the newest member to the Environmental Commission. Commissioner Cavataio introduced himself and said he has lived in West Chicago for about one year and really likes the area. He is interested in ecology and natural history also cares a great deal about the environment and conservation. The rest of the group made their introductions and Chairman Beebe explained in some detail the role of the Commission in West Chicago, the programs and events that it is and has been involved in, as well as mentioning the current items on the priority list.

Commissioners Blaus and Beebe mentioned they had opportunity to view the recent meteor shower while up in Wisconsin during the meteor event. Commissioner Blaus indicated he saw a few while Chairman Beebe said he saw hundreds.

7. Adjournment

At 8:28 P.M. Commissioner Blaus made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Zimmermann seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works