

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved with changes 11/28/2018

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 17, 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 Judi and Mike Horsley from the First United Methodist Church.

2. Approval of Minutes.

- A. **Environmental Commission Minutes of September 19, 2018. Commissioner Blaus made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zimmermann to approve the meeting minutes of September 19, 2018 with changes.**

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

3. Public Participation/Presentations.

The ~~Horsley's~~ *Horsleys* were in attendance to make a presentation about food scrap recycling and to provide information they received when they attended a SCARCE sponsored tour and workshop titled: Food Scrap Composting at the Curb.

The tour took place at Waste Management's Willow Ranch Compost facility in Romeoville, IL. The purpose of the workshop and tour was to learn about the benefits of composting food scraps, using compost in landscape projects, and obtain the tools needed to start a curbside food scrap composting program in your community. The workshop was geared toward helping municipalities start a curbside food scrap composting program in their community.

The information was presented along with some handouts. Mrs. Horsley took photos while at the compost facility which can be found on the First United Methodist Church Facebook page. There are currently seven or eight communities in this area that offer curbside food scrap composting service, the added cost to residents is about \$35.00 per year and the more communities that get involved could help reduce the cost. The end product is a fine, humus-like compost that is marketed to landscapers and soil amendment manufacturers for use in various landscape applications.

Pumpkin recycling was also discussed. Mrs. Horsley had packets of small flyers advertising the event for the Commission members to take and place in trick or treat bags during Halloween. They were still in need of volunteers to work the event to be held on November 3, 2018 at the First United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Horsley also shared two of her ideas for ways the City could increase environmental awareness in the community, including litter pickup as a component to “Walk with the Mayor” and to provide a list to residents of items that do not belong in their recycling totes.

The ~~Horsley's~~ *Horsleys* asked to be informed of any progress made to have Curbside food scrap recycling included with the next Residential Waste and Recycling Contract.

4. Items For Consent

None

5. Review and discuss Commission Priority List.

A. Review current priority list

Adopt A Highway

A cleanup of North Avenue by the Environmental Commission members took place on October 13, 2018. Four members worked for two hours collecting litter in the parkway and all went well.

It was noted that an article on the City website promoting the Adopt a Highway Program featured a photo of Ball Horticultural Company's volunteers during a recent cleanup event of Roosevelt Road.

Lighting Ordinance

There was no response yet from inquiries to Drew Carhart and Andrew Van Gorp regarding availability of Mr. Carhart for a presentation to help educate residents and gain support for the DuPage Starry Skies Project. There was some concern raised that the Ball Horticultural location may be too small, and it cannot be used on weekends. The group will wait to hear availability of the speaker before making plans.

Holiday Light Recycling Program

Arrangements were made with Elgin Recycling to accept collected holiday lights for recycling and Groot Industries, Inc. for providing recycling totes to place at various locations in town.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None

6. Other Business

Chairman Beebe discussed the City's residential waste and recycling contract. The current contract expires December 31, 2019. He noted most of the current members of the Environmental Commission were not here in 2012 when the Commission provided written recommendations to the City Administrator of ways to improve the contract. He would like any and all ideas from the members to include with written recommendations prior to the next contract period. Mr. Wilcox will email a copy of the current contract to all Commission members for reference. Chairman Beebe is also interested in seeing other municipal contracts in the area, such as Geneva. Ideas and comments voiced during discussion included better education about recycling, what can and cannot be recycled and what effect contamination has on

recycling, and concerns from some people that all recycling is mixed together on the same truck. The vacation hold policy on the current contract is for a minimum four week period (30 days to 120 days), which is not realistic for most people. Trucks at the end of their routes get too full and start to spill recycling material.

There was discussion about fall leaf collection. Most Commission members mulch their leaves but on some occasions use the free collection program offered with the residential waste and recycling contract. There was also discussion about a program that would allow mixing food scrap waste in Kraft paper bags with landscape waste. Commissioner Blaus will contact Kay McKeen, Executor Director of SCARCE for clarification about that program feature.

It was suggested that the Commission should *encourage the City to* pursue achieving some of the flags from SCARCE. Flags include: earth, ecology, and water conservation. Requirements for the flag programs can be found on the SCARCE website <https://www.scarce.org/>.

It was noted the next scheduled meeting in November is the day before Thanksgiving. A vote to move the next meeting from November 22, 2018 to 7:00 P.M. on November 28, 2018 was unanimously approved by voice vote.

7. Adjournment

At 8:20 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