

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 1/23/2019

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

December 19, 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, and Bethany Brown present. Commissioner Joe Cavataio was absent.

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

2. Approval of Minutes.

- A. **Environmental Commission Minutes of November 28, 2018. Commissioner Symowicz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zimmermann to approve the meeting minutes of November 28, 2018.**

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

Lighting Ordinance

There was discussion to set up a date and time for the group to meet at the Ball Café to check it out to see if it would be acceptable to host Drew Carhart's proposed speaking engagement. February was thought to be the best month to host the event on a week day night and avoiding February 18 -20, 2019 since that will be a busy period for Ball Horticultural Company. Commissioner Zimmermann was asked to inquire if there were any days in March that Drew would be available and to ask him the approximate length of time needed for his presentation.

Waste and Recycling Contract

Chairman Beebe would like everyone to be ready to discuss this topic at the meeting next month.

There was discussion about food scrap recycling. Groot Industries apparently has a contract with Glen Ellyn which includes a pilot food scrap recycling program. It is not mandatory, residents can elect to have the service and apparently all food scraps except meat can be placed in the compost bin. Bins range in different sizes and both landscape waste and food scraps can be combined in the same bin. It is a nine month program, with no collection in the winter months. It was mentioned Geneva's was the same as Glen Ellyn's. Wheaton's program was also discussed. They use Lakeshore Recycling Systems. The program is sticker based and residents can use their own containers, each weighing no more than 50 pounds and no larger than 35 gallons in size or they can use biodegradable paper bags. Their program includes most food scraps as well as meat, poultry, food soiled paper products such as fast food wrappers, pizza boxes, paper towels, napkins and more. All can be combined with yard waste and the program runs from the first full week of April through the second full week of December.

There were concerns raised about attracting animals by putting food scraps, especially meat and poultry, into biodegradable paper bags.

It was mentioned all local communities should be researched to see what other communities are doing for recycling and composting.

Pumpkin Recycling Event

Commissioner Blaus indicated Elmhurst collected 4.8 tons of pumpkins compared to West Chicago where only 0.65 tons was collected. It was suggested to hold the event one more year in West Chicago with earlier and better advertisement for the event. If determined there still is limited interest from West Chicago residents to recycle their pumpkins it might be best to stop holding the event, and focus advertising on other locations nearby. The cost of the 15 yard roll off was \$375 (with 2 tons included) and \$58.00 per ton over 2 tons.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

Commissioner Zimmermann would like to add obtaining the SCARCE flags (Earth, Water Quality, Ecology) to the priority list. This is something to encourage the City to pursue.

6. Other Business

Commissioner Zimmermann suggested to ask the police to participate in a drug/expired medication collection event to coincide with the paper shredding event.

7. Adjournment

At 8:10 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