

# CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 2/20/2019

## MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 23, 2019, 7:00 P.M.

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

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

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

#### 2. Approval of Minutes.

- A. **Environmental Commission Minutes of December 19, 2018.** Commissioner Zimmermann made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cavataio to approve the meeting minutes of December 19, 2018.

**Voting Yea: Commissioners Beebe, Zimmermann, Cavataio, 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

Commissioners are all in favor of moving forward using Ball Café to host Drew Carhart's proposed speaking engagement now set for 7:00 P.M. February 27, 2019. There was discussion about the amenities available, it having two conference rooms and two projectors available to use. A laptop was used to test out the equipment which worked well. The facility is very nice and there is abundant parking available. Commissioner Brown indicated there can be no alcohol at the event.

Chairman Beebe indicated he would work through the news release and forward to Rosemary Mackey and also put out information to the Garden Club at the meeting tomorrow. Commissioner Zimmermann will work to put a message out on Facebook to inform and solicit interest for the event. Commissioner

Blaus mentioned that Kay McKeen, Executor Director of SCARCE wishes to help promote the event as well.

It was mentioned the ultimate goal of the presentation is education. It is also hoped there will be positive feedback from at least most of the Alderman to justify moving forward with efforts to become an International Dark Sky Community.

#### Waste and Recycling Contract

Commissioner Blaus emailed Commissioners a copy of Wheaton's Waste and Recycling contract just prior to the meeting. There was much discussion about features of the Wheaton contract and details of pricing, which includes a tipping fee rather than set weekly or monthly rates so you pay only when your trash/recycling containers are emptied.

Chairman Beebe would like to retain all of the features in West Chicago's current contract such as electronic recycling drop off and looks to add some additional items. One example expressed was Christmas trees must be composted and not end up in a landfill. He is creating a matrix using a number of local municipal contracts and the features they contain to compare the variety of contracts. Most of the contracts have some component of comingled yard waste and food scrap composting however they vary widely on what food items can be included. Chairman Beebe would like all members to look over the Wheaton contract and pick out things liked and disliked to discuss at the meeting next month. Commissioner Zimmermann would like to research tipping vs. the City's current program more in depth since this is one of the big questions to be addressed.

The Commission should have all suggestions submitted to the City by spring to be considered for inclusion in a new waste and recycling contract for West Chicago.

#### Mayors Monarch Pledge

Commissioner Beebe summarized the email he received from Rosemary Mackey regarding *The Guardians* movie, and the butterfly activities planned in West Chicago for 2019.

The monarch pledge annual report for 2018 is due on Friday January 25, 2019. Mr. Wilcox emailed a draft survey response to the Commissioners and asked to let him know if there were any comments or additions prior to Friday.

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

None.

#### **6. Other Business**

Commissioner Beebe reviewed 2019 calendar dates of important events for the Environmental Commission. Discussed were:

March 20 – May 28	Rain Barrel sales
April 27	Adopt a Highway pickup (tentative)
May 18	Blooming Fest
June 1	Paper Shredding and Rain Barrel Pickup event
September 21 or 28	Adopt a Highway pickup (tentative)

November 29 – January 17, 2020      Holiday Light Recycling

There was also some discussion about low cost LED lights available now.

**7.      Adjournment**

At 8:37 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