

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved with changes 05/07/19

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 9, 2019, 7:00 P.M.

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

Chairman Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, Bob Blaus, Kris Zimmermann, John Symowicz, Joe Cavataio and Bethany Brown present.

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

2. Approval of Minutes.

- A. **Environmental Commission Minutes of March 20, 2019.** Commissioner Blaus made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the meeting minutes of March 20, 2019.

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

This subject was discussed briefly. The group discussed particular streetlight designs used in West Chicago, some being a major cause of glare especially the globe style on Main Street and luminaires used in many subdivisions. There was also discussion about controlling light infringement, working on a solution piece meal vs. working to pass an ordinance, possibly starting with City lights before anything else.

Blooming Fest

Mr. Wilcox contacted Groot and they will provide give away items again for this event and deliver them by the end of April. Mr. Wilcox informed the group he will not be able to attend the event this year. He will arrange for a table to be dropped off at the booth site the morning of the event.

Chairman Beebe and Commissioner Blaus will cooperate to get the tent to the booth site the morning of the event. Other discussion involved the mini rain barrel display, butterfly crafting, milkweed seeds, and hand outs and fliers to distribute. There was also some talk about distributing tree saplings however this was not confirmed.

Commissioner Blaus said he would check with SCARCE to see if they planned to be at the event.

Waste and Recycling Contract

Chairman Beebe will bring to next meeting a brief of recommendations to discuss/approve and forward to the City Administrator for consideration to include in the next Residential Waste and Recycling contract. There was some discussion about the current trend of landfilling plastics and low quality paper products. China stopped importing plastic in January 2018 due to the high levels of contamination.

Adopt a Highway

Next clean up event is scheduled for April 27, 2019, meeting at the old Hobby Lobby parking lot at about 8:00 AM. Chairman Beebe handed out waivers to sign and provided the signed waivers to Mr. Wilcox for the City.

Chairman Beebe said he will talk to Rosemary Mackey about finding groups, organizations, and businesses in West Chicago that could potentially be recruited to adopt sections of roads and send them information about the program.

Rain Barrel Pick up and Paper Shredding Event

Scheduled for Saturday June 1, 2019, 9:00AM – 12:00 PM. Mr. Wilcox informed the group he will not be able to attend this event. He will arrange for the rain barrels to be dropped off at City Hall for the event, provide a helper from ~~PW~~ *Public Works* for paper shredding, and take back any rain barrels not picked up during the event. He also said he has not sent the Conservation Foundation the \$250 for the Rain Barrel Partner Program but will do so this month. There was discussion about where and when to host a guest speaker which is provided when participating in the Rain Barrel Partner Program.

The information and link to the site is currently up and running.

Street Light Request Policy

A draft policy/procedure was passed out and discussed. The procedure discussed was for requesting ComEd lights in the older sections of the City where ComEd (wooden Pole) street lights are the main source of street lighting. Estimated pricing needed to be verified for cost if any for a light added to existing pole, and all new light, pole, and service. There was discussion about the signed petition and appropriate distance from the proposed light requiring signatures of residents affected. Commissioner Symowicz said Winfield Township has a similar procedure in that the people requesting a street light would be required to pay for the installation cost of the new light.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None.

6. Other Business

Commissioner Blaus mentioned SCARCE held a collection event at the City of Wheaton where paper shredding was offered, sharps, paint, and other items were also collected at the event. He said it was very successful and had a big turnout.

Other discussion involved the closing and sale of Sunny Acres, the drive-in theater, and a rumor that Prosek's Nursery may close after this spring.

There was also information presented on jumping worms and their impact on soil and the ecosystem.

The May Environmental Commission Meeting will be moved to Tuesday May 9, 2019 at 7:00 PM and will be held at the Water Treatment Plant.

7. Adjournment

At 9:00 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