

# CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 11/20/2024

## MEETING MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 16, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order Establish a Quorum
  - a. *Dave Shah, Staff Liaison, called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.*
  - b. *Roll call found Chair Nazree Williams (via telephone), Commissioner Bob Blaus, Commissioner Tyler Kesler, Commissioner Victoria Burris, and Commissioner Allen Rodriguez present.*
  - c. *Aldermanic liaison present included Alderman Christopher Swiatek.*
  - d. *Staff liaison present included Assistant Director of Public Works, Dave Shah.*
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2024
    - i. *Rodriguez made a motion, seconded by Blaus, to approve the Meeting Minutes.*
      1. *Voting Yea: Williams, Burris, Kesler*
      2. *Voting Nay: None*
3. Public Participation/Presentations
  - a. *None*
4. Items for Consent
  - a. *None*
5. Review and Discuss the Commission Priority List
  - a. Current List
    - i. Sustainability Plan – Subcommittee Update  
*Discussion: Kesler mentioned that the Subcommittee met and recommends comparing the results from the community survey conducted in 2024 and cherry-picking from the Priority Strategies from the list already provided from the previous endorsement of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' Greenest Region Compact, which was adopted by the City Council under Resolution No. 17-R-0007, instead of coming up with a new sustainability plan altogether. This would be in line with neighboring municipalities. Kesler further stated that the long-term sustainability plan could still be considered in the future. The Subcommittee will continue forward and create projects from previously adopted Priority Strategies.*
    - ii. Pumpkin Composting – November 2, 2024, 9am-1pm
      1. Location: New Hope United Methodist Church, 643 E. Washington St., West Chicago  
*Discussion: Shah provided an update on the ongoing coordination with Groot and the Church. Shah to share the Event flyer with the Commission.*



6:00 PM on the third Thursdays of the month starting in FY 2025 with the first meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025, which was seconded by Burris. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

g. Recruitment

*Discussion:* Commissioners generally discussed recruitment to assist with meeting quorum.

h. Other Discussions:

- i. *Burris attended Batavia's Environmental Commission's meeting and provided information on their initiative on bag tax they implemented recently along with their sustainability goals, including wildflower walks, water street studios, natural landscape, pesticide uses, clean earth challenge, air quality, etc.*
- ii. *There were general discussions between the Commissioners on how bag tax could be implemented in the City of West Chicago. Swiatek mentioned that there has not been any discussion regarding this topic at the City Council level when asked by Rodriguez. Swiatek further discussed that the bag tax initiative would be a long process and would take input from community stakeholders such as City staff, residents, business owners, elected officials, and volunteers. Swiatek further stated that due diligence has to be completed by the Commission and staff prior to the recommendation for implementation of the bag tax. Rodriguez mentioned conducting a community-wide survey in FY 2025 regarding bag tax to get the community's opinion. It was generally discussed and agreed upon that further research on bag tax is required prior to recommendation and implementation. Swiatek stated that this would not be a ban on bags, but a tax on bag usage. Williams, with her background in literature searches and reviews, will research the adverse effects of the plastic bag tax and provide information to the Commission so that efforts are backed up with facts.*
- iii. *The Commission was generally interested in the annual Earth Day proclamation starting in FY 2025.*
- iv. *Commissioners unanimously voted to cancel the December 18, 2024, Environmental Commission Meeting.*
- v. *Rodriguez stated to Swiatek and Shah that he would like the Mayor to recognize the initiative and the events of the Environmental Commission during City Council meetings.*

7. Adjournment

- a. *At 8:32 P.M., Kesler made a motion to adjourn, and Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

Respectfully,

Dave Shah, PE  
Assistant Director of Public Works