

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 9/15/2010

MINUTES ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

August 18, 2010 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to order to establish a Quorum

Dan Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

Roll Call- Dan Beebe, Bob Blass, and Nick Fuller were present

Also in attendance were the City of West Chicago Street Superintendent Tim Wilcox and Dupage County Environmental Projects Specialist Shefali M. Trivedi.

2. Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes from the July 21, 2010 Environmental Commission meeting where not available prior to the meeting. Once received from the secretary they will be placed on the next meeting agenda to be reviewed and approved by the Commission.

3. Public Participation/Presentations

A. Increase City-Wide Recycling – DuPage County

Guest Speaker Shefali M. Trivedi attending the meeting to discuss Recycling in DuPage County.

Steve Carrow had contacted DuPage County so that the commission could have a discussion about the County's recycling statistics, multifamily recycling, and other recycling topics. Shefali described that the statistics for recycling come from the waste haulers and currently that is the best information regarding recycling rates available in DuPage County. Unfortunately these numbers are only ball park numbers, but DuPage County needs some sort of data to establish a baseline. The base line data was used to look at the current 20% commercial recycling rate and set a countywide goal of doubling this rate by 2013. DuPage County itself is not currently focusing greatly on multifamily recycling and Shefali confirmed the difficulty of improving multifamily recycling.

The commission may want to shelve multifamily recycling for now and concentrate on commercial recycling. Shefali asked if we would like to establish a goal, but Dan wanted to establish a baseline first. It would be difficult to establish a baseline unless the individual business recorded the data themselves. Shefali asked if West Chicago has a mandate that requires the business to recycle the #1 waste in their waste stream. She suggested that this could be implemented at the time of the issuance of the business license. Dan said that we would need to check with the City to determine if any program of this type is in use at this time.

Shefali suggested that West Chicago could initiate a glass recycling program if the recycling container could be centralized and then it would have no cost to the businesses or West Chicago. The commission discussed various locations in which this program may work. We also discussed a commercial cardboard recycling program. Dan suggested that we have a representative from the Chamber of Commerce attend a Commission Meeting to discuss recycling possibilities. Shefali then discussed starting points for the recycling program including education materials and a survey which should help establish baseline metrics and then could lead to setting a goal. The Chamber of Commerce may also be able to help follow up with the businesses on this as well.

4. Review and Discuss Commission Priority List

A. Current List

Adopt-A-Highway

Steve Carrow, Steve Timbrook, and Bob Blaus would not be able to attend the scheduled August 19th Adopt-A-Highway garbage pickup meeting. It would be very difficult for Nick Fuller to attend that date as well. Dan will suggest a rescheduled date of September 8th, 9th, 15th, or 16th and the scheduled August 19th date would be cancelled.

B. New Additions

Paper Recycling and Recycling for Other Various Items Event

Dan suggested we should look towards the spring before the amnesty garbage event to maximize the participation.

5. Adjournment

Bob Blaus motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Nick Fuller seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.