

# CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 11/14/12

## MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 17, 2012 7:00 P.M.

#### 1. Call to Order Establish a Quorum

Dan Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Roll Call - Dan Beebe, John Symowicz, Mike Ferguson, Nick Fuller, and Bob Blaus were present.

Also in attendance was Street Superintendent Tim Wilcox, Elizabeth Opholt, Field Organizer for Energy Impact Illinois and Diane Ferguson, wife of commission member Mike Ferguson.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

- A. Environmental Commission Meeting of July 18, 2012
- B. Environmental Commission Meeting of August 15, 2012
- C. Environmental Commission Meeting of September 26, 2012

Minutes were not available.

#### 3. Review and Discuss Commission Priority List

##### A. Current list

Annual Recycling Event

This event took place on October 6, 2012 (Columbus Day weekend). Details of the event were discussed. Bob made mention that the event had participation similar to Cantigny's Green Fair Recycling Extravaganza, which he thought was dismal compared to past years. Dan said that Sims estimated about 4,000 pounds of recycled electronic were dropped off during our event. He indicated the paper shredding was one of the more attended stations. Tim will see if Accurate Document Destruction has a record of the amount of paper they received.

Doubts were raised about the need to hold the event next year. Reasons for the small turnout were discussed. There are currently a number of options people have to dispose of electronics. Sims will take items at no charge from residents during normal business hours Monday through Friday at their Harvester location. Groot will take electronics for residents at no charge on Saturdays from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. The not for profit

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and other participants at the event also have similar open hours where donations can be dropped off. The focus for next year may be simply to promote all of the various local recyclers and charities, and to determine where and when to hold a paper shredding event. Some ideas were discussed, but no decision was made. It was suggested however that any future event should start at 9:00 a.m. and go until noon, 8:00 a.m. was too early.

Dan asked if Groot tracks the amount of electronics dropped off on Saturdays and if they are still sending monthly collection reports. Tim will check on this.

#### Holiday Light Recycling

Tim said emails were sent to Groot for use of their recycling carts and to Elgin Recycling, waiting to hear back on both. There is a new contact person at Elgin recycling this year.

#### **B. New Additions**

No new additions.

#### **4. Other Business**

Guest speaker Elizabeth (Liz) Opholt passed out an Energy Impact Illinois informational flier and explained the rebate program. The program is funded by the utility companies and is available to most customers of Peoples or North Shore Gas, ComEd and Nicor. The limited time program will rebate up to \$1,750 of the cost of approved contractual air sealing and insulation energy improvements (these have the greatest impact on energy costs). Residents who sign up are required to have an energy audit on their home to determine what improvements are needed. This costs \$99 and is not applied to the rebate. The Ferguson's previously contacted Liz and signed up for the program. Diane described the steps they went through from start to finish. They were pleased with the professional service they received and the results of the energy savings report completed after the work was done which indicated a \$145/year savings in energy costs. Typical savings are estimated to be \$200-\$300 per year. The contractor submits the rebate forms so residents pay only the balance of the applied rebate.

Liz is looking for help from the commission to promote the rebate program, posting information in the City newsletter or email blasts. She said Holding an Impact Party is another way of promoting the rebate program. It is a 1½ hour commitment where a contractor is present to explain the process and answer questions. A free energy assessment is awarded for host the party. Liz said that after a meeting in Warrenville four (4) aldermen signed up to host an Impact Party. She also mentioned Kay McKeen was helping to promote the rebate program in DuPage County. Bob said he would pass the information to Mike Horsley at the Grace Lutheran Church as well as the West Chicago Library.

Information for the \$1750 Rebate is available on line at [EnergyImpactIllinois.org](http://EnergyImpactIllinois.org) or by calling 1-855-9-IMPACT.

Next meeting will be moved from November 21, 2012 to November 14, 2012 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

## **5. Adjournment**

Bob moved for the meeting to be adjourned, John seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.