

# CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 6/17/2020

## MINUTES

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 19, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

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

Chairman Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, John Symowicz, Bethany Brown, and Bob Blaus present. Kris Zimmermann and Joe Cavataio were absent.

Also in attendance was Assistant Director of Public Works, Tim Wilcox and West Chicago resident Kevin Maloney.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes.

The Environmental Commission Minutes of January 22, 2019 were tabled until the March 18, 2020 meeting.

#### 3. Public Participation/Presentations.

Mr. Maloney was in attendance as an interested observer. He works for the City of Wheaton and has interacted with their Environmental Commission and wanted to see what West Chicago's Commission was involved with.

#### 4. Items For Consent

None

#### 5. Review and discuss Commission Priority List.

##### A. Review current priority list

Chairman Beebe announced he will discuss 2020 events and their timeframes at the March Environmental Commission meeting.

For Mr. Maloney's benefit there was a brief discussion about what the Commission does and the events involved with. Chairman Beebe described the original purpose of the Commission as an advisory to the City Council, and at times the Commission is tasked to answer questions or research and report to them on issues related to the environment which may have an impact on West Chicago. Since this does not occur on a regular basis the group has become involved with other activities of their choosing that benefit the environment and West Chicago.

The Rain Barrel Program was discussed. Chairman Beebe indicated the Environmental Commission has partnered with the Conservation Foundation for number years to promote the sale of repurposed food containers made into rain barrels. Mr. Wilcox indicated he has already been contacted by the Conservation Foundation to provide a Rain Barrel Program for West Chicago residents for 2020. He will start the process to arrange for a program again this year.

Other Commission activities were presented and discussed. Mr. Maloney indicated that Wheaton's Environmental Commission is involved with many of the same activities as West Chicago's Commission.

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

None

**6. Other Business**

Commissioner Blaus mentioned he attended the February Clean Energy Job Act (CEJA) meeting. They meet at the St. Charles Municipal Building on the second Tuesday of each month. He said they had a speaker talking on the subject of monarch butterflies.

There were numerous other topics discussed including clothing/textile recycling, Commissioner Blaus has started looking for someone willing to take clothing if collected at the next paper shredding event. SCARCE is in the process of moving to a new facility so they will be closed for the next month. Batteries are difficult to recycle now. In the past numerous locations including some banks we taking regular batteries for recycling, now few places offer this without a cost.

Commissioner Brown mentioned there are a number of houses around the area where she lives that are being fitted with solar panels. Some of the panels look like they are installed on the north side of the homes and not at the best locations for sunlight.

Chairman Beebe mentioned numerous activities the West Chicago Garden Club is involved with. The calendar of upcoming events is on the Garden Club's webpage <http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org/>. A speaker from Ball Seed will be at their April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**7. Adjournment**

At 7:36 PM 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