

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 7/21/21

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 17, 2021, 7:00 P.M.

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

Chairman Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe present in person; Commissioners, Bob Blaus, Bethany Brown, and Kris Zimmermann were present via Zoom internet connection. Commissioner Joe Cavataio was absent.

Staff present in person included Assistant Director of Public Works, Tim Wilcox.

Chairman Beebe read the following statement: "Mayor Pineda has determined that in-person meetings are not practical and prudent".

2. Approval of Minutes.

- A. **Environmental Commission Minutes of February 17, 2021. Commissioner Blaus made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the meeting minutes of February 17, 2021.**

Voting Yea: Commissioner Beebe, Blaus, Brown and Zimmermann.

Voting Nay: zero.

3. Public Participation/Presentations.

None.

4. Items For Consent

None

5. Review and discuss Commission Priority List.

- A. **Review current priority list**

Paper shredding Event

The event currently scheduled for June 5, 2021 was the first topic of discussion. Commissioners talked last month about moving the location of the event to the METRA parking lot due to the record turnout of people and the traffic backups it caused on Main Street and Neltor Boulevard (Illinois Route 59) last

year. Chairman Beebe indicated the METRA lots were used for a COVID-19 mobile testing site in November 2020 and Mr. Wilcox will look into getting a copy of the Police Department's planned layout for the parking lot during the event so it can be modified for the shredding event.

Blooming Fest

This event has been canceled for 2021.

Rain Barrel Pickup Event

The Commission chose not to hold a Rain Barrel Pickup Event this year in conjunction with the Paper Shredding event. Instead, the City website directs those interested to the DuPage County sponsored event where people have the option to have their order delivered or to pick it up themselves at the Conservation Foundation location in Naperville.

Adopt A Highway

A spring date for the roadside pickup event is scheduled for April 17, 2021.

Mayors' Monarch Pledge

Commissioners discussed Mayors Monarch Pledge Day. At the March 15, 2021 City Council meeting the Mayor read a proclamation proclaiming March 31, 2021 as Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day. The proclamation met one of the action items for the 2021 Mayors' Monarch Pledge to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None.

6. Other Business

Commissioner Beebe announced the Garden Club has added a sustainability component to their mission and they have invited Kay McKeen from SCARCE to speak at next week's Garden Club Zoom meeting. He invited Commissioners interested to let him know and he would send them an invitation to the meeting.

Commissioner Beebe also mentioned the Garden Club is sponsoring a public art exhibit of bees this year. He believes there will be 12 jumbo-sized bee cutouts decorated by Garden Club members, and displayed with printed information at the Kruse House in an effort to raise awareness of the importance of bees as pollinators.

Commissioner Brown indicated she has not yet talked to officials from Ball Horticultural Company to set up a meeting with the Environmental Commission to discuss some of Ball's sustainability goals that include being more involved in the local community. She will try to do this prior to our next meeting.

Commissioner Zimmermann mentioned that new shielded streetlights located in a neighborhood in Geneva. The lights shine down and allow residents to be able to see the night stars. She will try to get a photo of one of the new streetlights.

Commissioner Blaus mentioned an article he read about those Communities that contracted with Prairie State as their energy provider. Prairie State uses coal as a main energy source. The article indicated the price for fossil fuel continues to rise while the cost of renewable energy like wind and solar continue to go down. This resulted in those communities paying far higher energy rates. The Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) is proposing the State of Illinois, through its authority to regulate emissions from power plants, work to close Prairie State's coal burning plant and that the State transitions away from fossil fuel use by 2030.

7. Adjournment

At 7:25 P.M. Commissioner Blaus made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works

