

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 11/17/2021

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

October 20, 2021, 7:00 P.M.

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

Chairman Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, Bethany Brown, and Kris Zimmermann present, Commissioners Bob Blaus, and Joe Cavataio were absent.

Also present was West Chicago resident Liuan Huska; staff present included Assistant Director of Public Works, Tim Wilcox.

2. Approval of Minutes.

- A. Environmental Commission Minutes of September 15, 2021. Commissioner Zimmermann made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the meeting minutes of September 15, 2021.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Beebe, 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

Adopt a Highway

Commissioners Beebe, Brown, and Cavataio met on Saturday October 16 and completed cleanup of the Environmental Commission's North Avenue section of right-of-way; power walking, they completed cleanup by 10:30 a.m. Better pickup sticks, and a bag opener device was discussed for improving cleanup efforts.

Commissioner Beebe mentioned the possibility of organizing youth groups to do a whole town cleanup similar to the leaf-raking program. Numerous groups are out there (churches, high school clubs, etc.), just a question of how to get them together/recruit and commit for such an event.

Ms. Huska said she would be interested in looking into organizing a group for adopt a highway. Commissioner Brown will send her application information.

Pumpkin Recycling

The event will be held at the First United Methodist Church of West Chicago located at 643 E. Washington Street on November 6, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The event is cosponsored by the West Chicago Environmental Commission.

Holiday Light Recycling

Mr. Wilcox will contact Groot to arrange for recycling totes and Gaylord container for the event, which will be held November 26, 2021 – January 21, 2022.

Priority List Items

Commissioners were asked to be prepared to discuss and prioritize current and past items at the November 17, 2021 Environmental Commission meeting.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None.

6. Other Business

Plastic bag ordinances designed to reduce the use of plastic shopping bags was a topic of discussion. Commissioner Brown mentioned she saw signs announcing a five cent per bag fee for any bag provided by stores while in Minneapolis. Commissioner Beebe said in Illinois only Chicago and Evanston have similar ordinances. Hawaii is the first state to eliminate plastic shopping bags; retailers have to switch to reusable bags or paper bags that are at least 40% recycled materials.

It was mentioned there is some reuse benefit to the free shopping bags as liners for small household garbage containers. People also use them to clean up after their pets.

Commissioner Zimmermann created a Google Docs sheet as the start of an idea page for Environmental Stewardship. She shared the link to the Commissioners. She welcomes input and edits.

Other topic discussed include, Groot Industries, Inc. composting bins, the City's Comprehensive Plan, the proposed Municipal Campus, and the brownfield where it would likely be located.

7. Adjournment

At 8:10 P.M., Commissioner Zimmermann 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