

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved (4/17/2024)

MEETING MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 21, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order Establish a Quorum
 - a. *Staff Liaison, Dave Shah, called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Roll call found Chair Nazree Williams, Co-Chair Thomas Cherrington, Commissioner Allen Rodriguez, and Commissioner Victoria Burris present. Commissioner Bob Blaus joined the meeting via a phone call.*
 - b. *Aldermanic liaison present included Alderman Christopher Swiatek.*
 - c. *Staff liaison present included Assistant Director of Public Works, Dave Shah.*
 - d. *The Commission welcomed Victoria Burris, who was appointed to the Environmental Commission on February 5, 2024.*
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Environmental Commission Minutes of January 23, 2024
 - i. *Rodriguez made a motion, seconded by Cherrington, to approve the Meeting Minutes.*
 1. *Voting Yea: Burris and Williams*
 2. *Voting Nay: None*
3. Public Participation/Presentations
 - a. *Jeniffer Boyer, Environmental Projects Coordinator, from DuPage County presented to the Commission on the bareroot giveaway program and its handling procedure during the Blooming Fest event.*
4. Items for Consent
 - a. *None*
5. Review and Discuss the Commission Priority List
 - a. Current List
 - i. November 24, 2023, to January 19, 2024 – Holiday Lights Recycling Event
 1. 840 Lbs. of lights were recycled.
 - ii. Blooming Fest – May 18, 2024
 1. Online application submitted for the Commission’s booth at the event
 2. Bareroot giveaways
 - a. Ongoing coordination with DuPage County
 - b. The County ordered following bareroots from Mason State Tree Nursery Topeka IL County (600 Total)
 - i. Hazelnut- Quantity: 100
 - ii. Bur Oak- Quantity: 100
 - iii. White Pine- Quantity: 100

- iv. Bald Cypress- Quantity: 100
- v. Bitternut Hickory- Quantity: 100
- vi. Black Chokeberry- Quantity: 100

Discussion: To prepare the bareroots prior to the event, the Commission proposed to designate Thursday, May 16, 2024, and Friday, May 17, 2024, between 7pm to 9pm at the Public Works facility. The Commission requested Boyer to attend the Blooming Fest to guide the Commission, which she agreed to. The Commission and Boyer will work with the high school for student volunteers.

3. Rain Barrel Program

- a. Can this program be incorporated into the Blooming Fest? (Motion Required)

Discussion: The Rain Barrel Program will NOT be incorporated into the Blooming Fest. The Commission prefers to take the Booming Fest as an opportunity to educate the Community and still provide a window for the community to order the Rain Barrels, which then can be picked up at the Paper Shredding Event on June 1, 2024.

- b. Application submitted to set up a webpage for the event.
- c. Proposed Start Date: February 22, 2024
- d. Proposed End Date: May 5, 2024

- 4. Brochures and FAQ sheets for the events (Attached)
- 5. Event coordination (e.g., Education Material, Volunteers, Packaging/Tagging) (Attached)
- 6. National Honors Society volunteers from high school would be interested in service hours.

Discussion: Jennifer Boyer to coordinate with the high school.

iii. Paper Recycling Event & Rain Barrel Pick Up – June 1, 2024

- 1. Agreements received and dates are confirmed.

6. New Additions

- a. None

7. Other Business

- a. Status on the resident survey

Discussion: The Commission agreed to advertise the survey on April 1, 2024, and close after the Blooming Fest Event on May 18, 2024.

- b. Conservation Foundation Presentation Topics (Attached)

- i. Conservation @ Home

1. <https://theconservationfoundation.org/conservation-home/>

- c. DuPage River Sweep – May 4th 2024

- i. <https://theconservationfoundation.org/rivers-streams/river-sweep/>

- ii. Is the Commission interested in participating? (Motion Required)

Discussion: The Commission wanted to inquire with the Foundation if this event is West Chicago specific or if the Commission will be participating with other communities prior to commitment to the DuPage River Sweep.

- d. Commission's Recommendations for Waste Contract Due by Friday, March 22, 2024

Discussion: The Commission requested additional time to provide a formal recommendation. The Commission was interested in listening to new waste

disposal initiatives in neighboring communities from SCARCE. Blaus will work with SCARCE to schedule a small presentation during the regularly scheduled Environmental Commission meeting on March 20, 2024. April 19, 2024, deadline for the new Wast Contract recommendation was generally agreed upon.

8. Adjournment

- a. *At 8:37 P.M., Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn and Cherrington seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

Respectfully,

Dave Shah, PE
Assistant Director of Public Works