

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 3/16/2022

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 16, 2022, 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, Joe Cavataio, Anna Leuer, Ethan Young, and Kris Zimmermann present via Zoom internet connection. Commissioners Bethany Brown and Bob Blaus were absent.

Staff present included Assistant Director of Public Works, Tim Wilcox via Zoom internet connection.

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 January 19, 2022. Commissioner Zimmermann made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cavataio to approve the meeting minutes of January 19, 2022.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Beebe, Cavataio, Leuer, Young, 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

Blooming Fest

The event is on the schedule for May 21, 2022. Chairman Beebe asked the group for their thoughts on having a booth at the event this year and said he will discuss again at the next meeting. He asked Mr. Wilcox to contact Groot about providing handouts. Previously they provided magnetic chip clips and reusable shopping bags.

Adopt A Highway

Currently there are only two Groups active within this program, the Environmental Commission and Ball Horticultural Company. Increasing involvement from other groups was discussed.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None.

6. Other Business

Chairman Beebe introduced Commissioner Ethan Young as the newest member to the Environmental Commission. Commissioner Young thanked the Commissioners as well as the citizens of West Chicago for allowing him to be part of the Environmental Commission. Commissioner Young provided a brief summary of his background and interests. Chairman Beebe and the other Commissioners introduced themselves and provided summaries of their backgrounds and interests.

Chairman Beebe provided a brief history of the Environmental Commission, and his involvement as President of the Garden Club. The Environmental Commission is an advisory commission to City Council and the other Committees, though in recent years there have been no requests made for review or for advisement. Members continue to meet discussing and sharing environmental topics important to each of them. The group is also involved with Adopt a Highway, collecting litter from their section of North Avenue at least twice a year, the Annual Paper Shredding Event (usually on the first Saturday in June), Rain Barrel Sale and Resident Pickup Event. The Commission co-sponsors pumpkin composting (with the United Methodist Church), organizes annual holiday light recycling, and participates in Blooming Fest in West Chicago.

Chairman Beebe indicated he has been in email contact with Daniel Peck, the new Marketing & Communications Coordinator for West Chicago, and said Dan is interested in continuing to seek input from the Environmental Commission for future articles, which Ms. Mackey had started to do last year before retiring. Commissioner Zimmerman created a Google Doc called Environmental Stewardship Page Ideas, for members to access and share ideas for articles. She said she sent the Google Doc link to Commissions Leuer and Young.

Commissioner Leuer explained her involvement with the Mighty Acorns program provided to her students by the Conservation Foundation. She would like to promote the current project they are working on and possibly submit drawings and responses made by the children to the City for consideration to place in a newsletter, or on the website. Chairman Beebe advised she could contact Dan Peck directly to ask if was something the City would be interested in putting in an article.

Commissioner Leuer also asked about plans for the City Water Tower and if there was a process to submit graphic design ideas to consider when its' repainted. The other Commissioners had no knowledge of such. Chairman Beebe explained the tremendous cost involved to paint a water tower.

The proposed Pulte subdivision to be located south of Smith Road and West of Klein Road was discussed. Commissioner Cavataio was at the meeting regarding the proposed subdivision hosted by Pulte and expressed his views on the subject. The discussion lead to the possible impact of storm water runoff from the subdivision and how it could affect the Forest Preserve property east of Klein Road.

7. Adjournment

At 7:45 P.M., Commissioner Zimmermann made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Leuer seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works

