

CITY OF
WEST CHICAGO
WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 15, 2023
7:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Call to Order Establish a Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Environmental Commission Minutes of January 18, 2023
3. Public Participation/Presentations
4. Items for Consent
 - a. None
5. Review and Discuss the Commission Priority List
 - a. Current List
 - i. May 20, 2023 – Blooming Fest
 - ii. June 3, 2023 – Paper Shredding Event
 - b. New Additions
6. Other Business
 - a. Paper Shredding Event
 - i. \$500 Grant Received from DuPage County
 - ii. Event Coordination & Touch-A-Truck Update
 - b. Rain Barrel Program
 - i. Letter from Conservation Foundation (Enclosed)
 - ii. Program Coordination
7. Adjournment

MEETING MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 18, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

- 1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum.**
 - a. Chairman Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, Bethany Brown, Alyssa Rodway, and Kris Zimmermann present.*
 - b. Staff present included Assistant Director of Public Works, Dave Shah.*
- 2. Approval of Minutes.**
 - a. Environmental Commission Minutes of November 16, 2022.**
 - i. Commissioner Zimmermann made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodway to approve the Meeting Minutes.*
 - ii. Voting Yea: Commissioner Beebe, Brown, Rodway, and Zimmermann. Voting Nay: zero.*
- 3. Public Participation/Presentations.**
 - a. None*
- 4. Items for Consent.**
 - a. None*
- 5. Review and discuss Commission Priority List.**
 - a. Current List**
 - i. May 20, 2023 – Blooming Fest*
 - ii. June 3, 2023 – Paper Shredding Event*
 - b. New Addition**
 - i. None*
- 6. Other Business**
 - a. 2023 DuPage County Document Shredding Funding Program Availability**
 - i. Commissioner Zimmermann made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the Shah to apply for funding in the amount of \$500 from DuPage County for the expenses related to the Paper Shredding Event.*
 - ii. The Commission overall showed interest in becoming a member of the Cool DuPage Partner. Commissioner Rodway volunteered to research and follow up on the requirements to become a Partner with DuPage County.*
 - b. Great Western Trail annual trails cleanup Volunteers needed**
 - i. When: Saturday, April 29, 2023**

ii. Contact: Don Kirchenberg at frndsgrtwstrntrl@aol.com

1. *The Commission generally discussed the idea of combining the Environmental Commission's Adopt-A-Highway event with the Great Western Trail annual cleanup on April 29, 2023. The Commission generally agreed upon selecting the section of the Illinois Prairie Path north of IL-64 (North Avenue) and East of IL-59 for clean-up. Commissioner Brown to coordinate with Mr. Kirchenberg to ensure that the mentioned section of the Great Western Trail is available.*

c. Seed Library

- i. *Commissioner Blaus shared a Seed Library program start-up from Batavia Public Library via email to the Commission. The Commission generally agreed on the value of the program. Commissioner Zimmermann volunteered to reach out to the West Chicago Public Library to find out about interest and potential coordination to start a Seed Library in the West Chicago community.*
- ii. *Shah asked if Ball Horticulture would be interested in donating seeds if the program was established in the community. Commissioner Brown volunteered to ask the Ball Horticulture team for interest in potential seed donations.*
- iii. *Commissioner Blaus also stated in the email to potentially incorporate the Seed Library into Blooming Fest. The Commission overall agreed on the idea.*

d. Residential curbside composting program

- i. *Shah shared the Village of Glen Ellyn's curbside composting program with the commission for information and discussion purposes to gauge interest. Shah also mentioned that Groot is interested in implementing a pilot program in West Chicago, which would be very similar to Glen Ellyn's program. The Commission is overall supportive of the program, including program's rates and flexibility.*

e. City Commission Communication Request

- i. *Shah shared a memo from City's Marking & Communications Division to help promote events and information on the City website. Shah will share a Google Drive link with the Commission where the City Staff could upload the content for review.*

7. Adjournment

- a. *At 8:09 P.M., Commissioner Rodway made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

Respectfully,

Dave Shah, PE
Assistant Director of Public Works

We save land.



We save rivers.



January 2023

Greetings!

I am contacting you about setting up a **Rain Barrel Program** in your community this spring. We have seen a continued strong demand for rain barrels from the public along with enthusiasm for water conservation and other sustainable landscaping practices.

We encourage you to participate in the Rain Barrel Program again this year, or for the first time.. We make it easy by offering a complete program in collaboration with our supplier, Upcycle Products, Inc. **They take the orders, handle the payment and get the barrels to the homeowners.**

We highly recommend that municipalities have a distribution day when homeowners come and pick up their rain barrel at an appointed location and time. Home delivery is available; and barrels can be ordered for delivery before and after the free drop-off day. However, the home delivery charge has gone up to \$32.50 per rain barrel so offering a free pick-up in your community is a substantial benefit for residents.

An effective way to build enthusiasm for the rain barrel sales is to have us do an education program in your community. We can do a Zoom webinar, or in-person presentation, in which we explain the benefits of using untreated water and keeping rain water where it falls. We are available to answer questions and help with installation problems. **If you have a MS4 permit, this education program counts towards meeting your education and outreach requirements to provide information about green infrastructure strategies.**

We have also found that having a good communication plan helps greatly to raise awareness and increase rain barrel sales. To that end, it's helpful to have a couple of months to promote the rain barrel sales. We will work with you or your communications person and provide promotional materials to get the message out.

One benefit of partnering with The Conservation Foundation is that we will handle the communications with Upcycle Products; and you may forward residents' questions about rain barrels and installation to our staff. We ask, but don't require, a participation fee of \$250 which covers our time, the seminar, and home visits to help the homeowners. We don't require the fee because we don't want any community left out because of lack of funding. For those who can make a payment, we are grateful.

I am available to answer your questions and customize a program for your community. **Contact me** at ncinatl@theconservationfoundation.org or at 630-428-4500 Ext. 132 and I will send you the information to get started. It's not too early to get dates on the calendar for next spring so **I hope to hear from you soon.**

Nancy Cinatl
Program Assistant
630 428-4500 x 132

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