

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 2/17/2021

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 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 present in person; Commissioners, Bob Blaus and Kris Zimmermann were present via Zoom internet connection. Commissioners Bethany Brown and Joe Cavataio were 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 December 16, 2020.

Chairman Beebe tabled the December 16, 2020 meeting minutes.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Beebe, Blaus, and Cavataio.

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

Holiday Light Recycling

The program was very popular this season compared to last. Light strings and extension cords collected filled more than two Gaylord containers this season.

Mayors' Monarch Pledge

The National Wildlife Federation™ (NWF) made changes to the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program. Current changes now will require Mayors to recommit annually to pledge support for the preservation of the monarch butterfly and indicate new goals or plans to continue supporting existing goals.

The members agreed it would be good for the community to continue support and discussed whether a recommendation from the Environmental Commission to continue support for the preservation of the monarch butterfly would be necessary as well as Council approval, in light of the changes made.

On March 20, 2017, City Council approved Resolution 17-R-0016 providing support of the NWF's efforts for the preservation of the monarch butterfly and other pollinators and authorized the Mayor to sign the Mayors' Monarch Pledge.

After some discussion Members agreed Resolution 17-R-0017 provides the authority to the Mayor to continue to sign the annual pledge and no recommendation or Council action should be necessary.

The deadline for the Mayor to commit is March 31, 2021.

Mr. Wilcox indicated he would discuss with the City Administrator and ask for direction.

Blooming Fest

Members discussed the Call for vendors email that was sent out by the City for the event. It stipulated there would be no food vendors or live entertainment at the event. Chairman Beebe also indicated the Garden Club voted not to hold a plant sale this year but if the event were to occur in 2021, they would have only an information booth at the event. The Environmental Commission will hold off committing to participating in the event this year.

Rain Barrel Pickup Event

This topic was briefly discussed and will need to be discussed at a future meeting to determine if the Commission wishes to hold a pick up event or as was done last year, promote DuPage County's rain barrel program in which rain barrels are ordered and paid for on line and delivered to the customer.

Paper shredding Event

The event currently scheduled for June 5, 2021 was briefly discussed. Moving the event to the METRA parking lot due to the record turnout of people and the traffic backups it caused on Main Street and Neltner Boulevard (Illinois Route 59) was the main topic of discussion.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None.

6. Other Business

Commissioner Beebe shared the Cultural Arts Commission would be pursuing a Monarch Butterfly based program this year. He said the Garden Club would be promoting pollinators in general but focusing on bees this year using art and bee facts to get their message across to residents.

Commissioners discussed the possible impact to the City and residents if Lakeshore Recycling Systems received a permitted to build a transfer station their existing property on Powis Road south of North Avenue.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Zimmermann became disconnected from her remote connection and was no longer present at the meeting. With no other actions taken, Commissioner Beebe ended the meeting at 7:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works

