

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 2/16/2022

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 19, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

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

Chairman Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, Bethany Brown, Bob Blaus, Joe Cavataio, Liuan Huska, Anna Leuer, and Kris Zimmermann present via Zoom internet connection.

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 November 17, 2021. Commissioner Huska made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Leuer to approve the meeting minutes of November 17, 2021.**

Voting Yea: Commissioner Beebe, Brown, Blaus, Cavataio, Huska, Leuer, 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

The group discussed ways to publicize and increase awareness of the program to get more groups or organizations to sign up.

Chairman Beebe reviewed items that have been on the priority list in the past but had no recent action or conclusion. They include the following:

Updating City code to require Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) compliance for new construction.

International Dark-Sky Association, developing and passing a lighting Ordinance to reduce light pollution.

Increasing the recycling rate throughout the community, including single family, multifamily, and business/commercial industrial, through education and reducing contamination in the recycling stream.

Planning for and increasing bicycle infrastructure to connect the City to the existing prairie paths that go through town.

Promoting the use of alternate fueled (green) vehicles in the City fleet.

Chairman Beebe asked members to bring other ideas to future meetings and to let him know if any are interested in pursuing items from past priority lists mentioned tonight. He reminded the group that individuals will need to research the item and formulate a recommendation that the Commissioner can vote on, so it can be presented to the appropriate Committee or City Council for consideration.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None.

6. Other Business

Commissioner Leuer introduced herself and provided a brief summary of her interests, her career as an educator in West Chicago, and her involvement with introducing students to prairie restoration at the Blackwell Forest Preserve.

Chairman Beebe provided a summary of the role of the Environmental Commission, that it is an advisory commission to City Council and the other Committees. The City has not requested the Commission to review or advise on any topics for about two years. Members will discuss and share as a group, topics important to each of them. The group is also involved with Adopt a Highway, 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.

Other topics discussed include:

The addition of food scrap composting to the City Waste and Recycling Contract with Groot. With the most recent contract limited food waste items may be combined with yard waste in a yard waste tote provided with an annual subscription fee. The cost of the 95-gallon tote, over \$200 annually, likely discourages most residents who have minimal yard waste from subscribing for the tote service.

The new Marketing & Communications Coordinator, Daniel Peck replaced Rosemary Mackey who retired at the end of 2021. Chairman Beebe will make an effort to contact him to see if he will continue to seek input from the Environmental Commission for future articles, which Ms. Mackey had started to do last year.

Dates for events held in 2022 will be finalized and announced at a future meeting. Saturday June 4, 2022 is the date of the next paper-shredding event. Blooming Fest is planned to occur on May 21, 2022.

Chairman Beebe discussed his idea and reasoning for a possible annual Citywide Clean up event to occur in the spring. A suggestion to get the Mayor involved was made.

Also discussed, creating an in town drop off site for recycling special items like those collected by SCARCE, similar to something the City of Wheaton made available. Fabric recycling was also mentioned. Expanding the paper-shredding event to collect some of these items was also mentioned as a possibility.

Commissioner Huska announced her intention to resign from the Environmental Commission.

7. Adjournment

At 8:32 P.M., Commissioner Blaus 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

