



WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**Wednesday June 17, 2020
7:00 p.m. – Committee Room A**

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, those wishing to attend public meetings of the Environmental Commission are welcome to do so at City Hall. You may attend in person to listen to the audio of the meeting, or via teleconference from the home or another location on the Zoom app. Downloading Zoom from zoom.us will provide the audio link to the meeting. Anyone wishing to provide comment on a topic or an agenda item may address the Environmental Commission by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. You may do so either by an online form on the City's website, email to twilcox@westchicago.org, or voicemail message at 630 293-2268 ext. 504. Your comment to the Environmental Commission will be read during the Public Participation portion of the agenda.

**Meeting ID: 833 7783 2276
Password: 974888**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order Establish a Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Environmental Commission Meeting of January 22, 2020
 - B. Environmental Commission Meeting of February 19, 2020
3. Public Participation/Presentations
4. Items for Consent
 - None
5. Review and Discuss Commission Priority List
 - A. Current List
 - B. New Additions
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

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MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

January 22, 2020, 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, John Symowicz, Joe Cavataio, Bethany Brown, Bob Blaus, and Kris Zimmermann present.

Also in attendance was Assistant Director of Public Works, Tim Wilcox.

2. Approval of Minutes.

- A. Environmental Commission Minutes of November 20, 2019. Commissioner Blaus made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Symowicz to approve the meeting minutes of November 20, 2019.**

Voting Yea: Commissioners Beebe, Brown, Cavataio, Zimmermann, Blaus, and Symowicz. Voting Nay: 0.

3. Public Participation/Presentations.

None

4. Items For Consent

None

5. Review and discuss Commission Priority List.

- A. Review current priority list**

Chairman Beebe announced he will discuss 2020 events and their timeframes at the February Environmental Commission meeting.

Residential Waste, Recycling and yard Waste Collection

Mr. Wilcox distributed copies of the resolution extending the residential solid waste, recycling, and yard waste collection contract with Groot Industries, Inc. The Commissioners discussed some of the additions to the contract including timeframes for the Holiday Light Recycling Program and the Pumpkin Recycling Program. Both will need to be looked at and discussed further.

Organic food waste composting is allowed in the contract starting in 2020 when residents elect to use a calendar year yard waste subscription service. The \$200 annual service includes a 95-gallon cart used for placing yard waste and acceptable organic food waste items each week during the yard waste collection period (April 1 – November 30). Discussion included cost comparison between stickered Kraft bag and

Environmental Commission Meeting

January 22, 2020

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the cart service, an option for a smaller cart at reduced cost, and the possibility of pooling with a neighbor to purchase the service. The list of organic food waste items was also discussed. There was some disappointment voiced that food soiled paper products, such as napkins and pizza boxes, were not included on the list of accepted items for composting.

There was also a question raised whether all of the items listed for recycling in the original contract are still collected or if some are not.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None

6. Other Business

Commissioner Blaus discussed information from the last Clean Energy Job Act (CEJA) meeting he attended. He said there are numerous communities locked into expensive long term energy contracts.

The Senate Bill SB1240 was mentioned and discussed. The proposed bill would create the Checkout Bag Tax Act imposing a tax of \$0.07 on each checkout bag used by a customer at a retail establishment in Illinois. The tax would apply to single use plastic, paper, or compostable bag provided by a retail establishment at the checkout, cash register, point of sale, or other point of departure to a customer for the purpose of transporting goods out of the retail establishment. Some municipalities like Chicago have already imposed such a tax.

Other items discussed included banning the use of Styrofoam, lead pellets for hunting/fishing, and pushing for return envelopes for long life smoke detector batteries.

Commissioner Blaus spoke about unserviceable clothes and fabric recycling. He said Kane County has started taking clean clothes and textiles in any condition. Damaged or worn textiles are turned into wiping rags or insulation blankets. The remaining damaged or worn fabric is sorted for use in fiber products like insulation, packing material or carpeting. Wheaton started a program January 11, 2020 to recycle textiles as well. Commissioner Blaus said he would look for a group that recycles old clothing to attend the next paper shredding event.

Commissioner Symowicz mentioned that ComEd has almost completed switching all Chicago street lights to LED.

Commissioners Zimmermann and Cavataio both shared their stories about seeing a bald eagle in the area recently.

7. Adjournment

At 8:00 P.M. Commissioner Blaus made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cavataio seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works

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MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 19, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

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

Chairman Beebe called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Roll call found Commissioners Dan Beebe, John Symowicz, Bethany Brown, and Bob Blaus present. Kris Zimmermann and Joe Cavataio were absent.

Also in attendance was Assistant Director of Public Works, Tim Wilcox and West Chicago resident Kevin Maloney.

2. Approval of Minutes.

The Environmental Commission Minutes of January 22, 2019 were tabled until the March 18, 2020 meeting.

3. Public Participation/Presentations.

Mr. Maloney was in attendance as an interested observer. He works for the City of Wheaton and has interacted with their Environmental Commission and wanted to see what West Chicago's Commission was involved with.

4. Items For Consent

None

5. Review and discuss Commission Priority List.

A. Review current priority list

Chairman Beebe announced he will discuss 2020 events and their timeframes at the March Environmental Commission meeting.

For Mr. Maloney's benefit there was a brief discussion about what the Commission does and the events involved with. Chairman Beebe described the original purpose of the Commission as an advisory to the City Council, and at times the Commission is tasked to answer questions or research and report to them on issues related to the environment which may have an impact on West Chicago. Since this does not occur on a regular basis the group has become involved with other activities of their choosing that benefit the environment and West Chicago.

The Rain Barrel Program was discussed. Chairman Beebe indicated the Environmental Commission has partnered with the Conservation Foundation for number years to promote the sale of repurposed food containers made into rain barrels. Mr. Wilcox indicated he has already been contacted by the Conservation Foundation to provide a Rain Barrel Program for West Chicago residents for 2020.

He will start the process to arrange for a program again this year.

Other Commission activities were presented and discussed. Mr. Maloney indicated that Wheaton's Environmental Commission is involved with many of the same activities as West Chicago's Commission.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None

6. Other Business

Commissioner Blaus mentioned he attended the February Clean Energy Job Act (CEJA) meeting. They meet at the St. Charles Municipal Building on the second Tuesday of each month. He said they had a speaker talking on the subject of monarch butterflies.

There were numerous other topics discussed including clothing/textile recycling, Commissioner Blaus has started looking for someone willing to take clothing if collected at the next paper shredding event. SCARCE is in the process of moving to a new facility so they will be closed for the next month. Batteries are difficult to recycle now. In the past numerous locations including some banks we taking regular batteries for recycling, now few places offer this without a cost.

Commissioner Brown mentioned there are a number of houses around the area where she lives that are being fitted with solar panels. Some of the panels look like they are installed on the north side of the homes and not at the best locations for sunlight.

Chairman Beebe mentioned numerous activities the West Chicago Garden Club is involved with. The calendar of upcoming events is on the Garden Club's webpage <http://www.westchicagogardenclub.org/>. A speaker from Ball Seed will be at their April 23rd meeting.

7. Adjournment

At 7:36 PM Commissioner Blaus made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Symowicz seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works