

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved with changes 07/15/20

MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

June 17, 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 Commissioner Dan Beebe present at City Hall, Commissioners Bob Blaus and Joe Cavataio were present via Zoom internet connection, Commissioners Bethany Brown and Kris Zimmermann were absent.

Commissioner Zimmermann joined the meeting via Zoom internet connection at 7:16 p.m.

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

2. Approval of Minutes.

- A. **Environmental Commission Minutes of January 22, 2020. Commissioner Blaus made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zimmermann to approve the meeting minutes of January 22, 2020.**

Voting Yea: Commissioner Beebe, Blaus, Cavataio, and Zimmermann.

Voting Nay: 0.

- B. **Environmental Commission Minutes of February 19, 2020. Commissioner Blaus made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zimmermann to approve the meeting minutes of February 19, 2020.**

Voting Yea: Commissioner Beebe, Blaus, Cavataio, and Zimmermann.

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 asked the group if they would be willing to schedule an Adopt A Highway clean up next month. After some discussion, a date was set for 8:00 a.m. July 18, 2020 for the next cleanup.

Environmental Commission Meeting

June 17, 2020

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MAYOR
Nancy M. Smith
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Michael L. Guttman
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 paper-shredding event scheduled for June 1, 2020 was canceled. August 1, 2020 is the tentative new date for the paper-shredding event. Accurate Document Destruction, Inc. (Accurate) had only three Saturday dates open for the remainder of the year and all three dates were in August.

When Accurate was contacted in May, they indicated they had not held an event yet in 2020. Their first shredding event was scheduled for Saturday June 13. Chairman Beebe explained new procedures that Accurate planned to implement during the event. They will have drivers wear gloves and mask during the duration event. The totes will be 8 to 10 feet away from the shred truck and residents will have to place material in totes. Once a tote is full, the driver will then shred the contents. Empty boxes cannot be taken by Accurate employees after destruction has taken place.

Chairman Beebe mentioned possible liability issues for volunteers and the unknowns related to the pandemic in August as possible reason for not holding an event this year. He asked the group for their input and recommendations about holding the event.

One member said City will need to determine soon if the event will take place August 1st so there's sufficient time to advertise. Another concern was some people in the past relied on volunteers to assist them, especially the elderly needed help unloading their material. It could also take more time and create longer lines with no help provided to unload. Having to wear a mask and the potential for working in hotter weather in August was also a concern, so periodic breaks will likely be required.

After some discussion, the consensus of the Commission was to recommend holding the event on August 1, 2020. Commissioners would volunteer to assist unloading materials while wearing gloves and a mask and taking breaks when necessary.

Mr. Wilcox will inform the City Administrator of the Commission's recommendation.

B. Discuss new additions to priority list

None

6. Other Business

Chairman Beebe prefaced the topic of contaminated recycled materials collected by Groot in West Chicago. Commissioner Blaus has discussed this topic at past meetings and most recently in an email to the members. He sees in his own neighborhood recycling bins filled with plastic bags and regular trash that is often collected. Violation notice stickers do not appear to be placed on the violators bin. Other members indicated they have seen the stickers on recycling bins but not often.

Other questions/comments: Does Groot have percentages on the extent of contamination of West Chicago's recyclables? Are West Chicago's recyclables actually being recycled? Do people know they can almost triple the amount of garbage they can dispose of for about \$3/month more by getting a 95-gallon tote? Some residents may not realize this.

Members discussed the benefits and drawbacks of a large refrigerator magnet that identifies what can be recycled vs. a sticker on the recycling bin or tote. All agreed it would be good to have a representative from Groot at a future meeting to discuss what they see, and to hear their views on the subject and what

they have found that works for educating people about recycling. Inviting Kay McKeen from SCARCE to such a meeting was also recommended.

Final discussion pertained to curbside organic food waste. Question for Groot is how many people have signed up for the service. There is little or no promotion for the service and most felt more items should be added to the collection list including food stained paper ~~products~~*products such* as napkins and pizza boxes.

7. Adjournment

At 7:59 PM Commissioner Blaus made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner ~~Zimmerman~~ *Zimmermann* seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Wilcox, Assistant Director of Public Works