



DEKALB CITIZENS' ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MARCH 4, 2021
4:00 P.M.

DeKalb City Hall
First Floor Conference Room
164 East Lincoln Highway
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

- A. Roll Call
- B. Approval of Agenda
- C. Public Comment
- D. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. Regular Monthly Meeting on January 21, 2021
- E. Commission Reports:
 - 1. DeKalb County Health Department: Vacant
 - 2. DeKalb Park District: Mat Emken
 - 3. Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District: Mike Holland
 - 4. Northern Illinois University: Sarah Fox
 - 5. City Staff Liaison: Scott Zak
- F. New Business:
 - 1. New CEC commissioner
 - 2. Year-end report
 - 3. First CEC presentation and co-sponsorship
 - 4. Completion of the Upper South Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed Improvement Plan
 - 5. EV charging station letter of support
- G. Old Business:
 - 1. Monarch City USA signs
 - 2. Leaf-burning ordinance letter

3. Bee-keeping ordinance request
4. Light intrusion
5. Daily Chronicle articles
6. Public presentations
7. Other updates on previously discussed items

H. Announcements

1. New announcements
2. Next meeting: April 1, 4:00 p.m.

I. Adjournment

MINUTES
CITY OF DEKALB
Citizens' Environmental Commission
December 3, 2020

The Citizens' Environmental Commission (CEC) held a regular business meeting on December 3, 2020 virtually through the video platform Zoom.

Chair Clare Kron called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

The following members of the Citizens' Environmental Commission were present (indicated by x):

X Clare Kron (Chair)	X Nick Newman	X Sharon Skala
X Steve Honeywell (Vice-Chair)	X Virginia Wilcox	X Rachel Farrell
X Ann Shult	Kyle Moore	

The following ex-officio members were present (indicated by x):

(Vacant) DeKalb Park District
X Sarah Fox, Northern Illinois University
Mike Holland Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District
(Vacant) DeKalb County Health Department

Also present Mayor Jerry Smith and guest speaker, Matt Sexton.

B. Approval of agenda

Ann asked for a motion to approve agenda

MOTION

Mr. Honeywell moved to approve the agenda, second by Sharon

VOTE

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote of those present.

C. Approval of minutes

Regular monthly meeting of January 21st, 2021

The minutes from the December 3, 2020, meeting were approved. Motion by Chair Kron.

Seconded by Steve Honeywell

Steve Honeywell will send corrections to the minutes to Chair Kron.

Final minutes to be approved at the next meeting.

D. Public comments

No public present.

E. Commission reports

a. Dekalb Park District

Chair Kron spoke with the Superintendent of Parks to request a new ex-official member. There is no new member yet appointed.

b. Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District- Mike Holland

No information supplied.

c. Northern Illinois University- Sara Fox

The university is still operating remotely. The university will be hiring a new sustainability coordinator, allowing a new focus on environmental issues.

e. City staff liaison

Scott Zack is to be appointed as staff liaison but was unavailable for this meeting.

F. New business

1. New members have joined.

Two new commissioners will fill the vacant seats on the CEC: Kyle Moore and Nick Newman.

2. New EV charging station.

A new EV charging station was installed in the Vaughn Parking Lot between First and Second Streets. This may attract a new set of visitors and provide increased traffic for our local downtown businesses.

3. Monthly Daily Chronicle articles

Chair Kron reminded the commission that articles are to be submitted to Steve by the last Sunday of every month. We received feedback from Dan Kenney letting us know that the last article was very helpful.

4. Guest speaker Matt Sexton

- a. The purpose of this presentation was to relay Facebook's mission of wanting to give people the power to build up the community and bring the world closer together.
- b. Matt shared Facebook's intent on helping DeKalb stay sustainable and promised that the new Facebook building will be close to 100% self-sustainable. This building will run on 100% renewable energy.
- c. Matt presented a view of the data center that will be erected this year. He also gave a quick overview of how the equipment works.

Questions for Matt:

Q- Chair Kron asked if Dekalb will have extra energy credits overflowing from the data center.

A-Matt replied that they will not be credits, but rather the energy produced from the grid will add to Dekalb's energy capacity.

5. Report on salt-spreading discussion with Andy Raih.

Chair Kron spoke with Andy Raih and it turns out that Dekalb is already using a new salt solution method that is more environmentally friendly. Andy also shared that DeKalb has cut salt usage by 25-30% over the past decade. Chair Kron is awaiting exact figures from Andy.

6. First CEC presentation and co-sponsorship

- a. Chair Kron contacted Mark Thorson from NIU's IT department regarding providing a speaker for 5G technology and is awaiting a designated presenter.
- b. Stem Cafe will be contacted to ask for co-sponsor.
- c. The Commission agreed to invite last year's co-sponsors for the 2021 presentations.

G. Old business

1. Sustainability Plan Updates

Due to the number of vacancies in the commission this subject was postponed until the March meeting.

2. Monthly Daily Chronicle Articles

List of topics to cover:

1. Monarch city USA
2. Announcing leaf/garbage burn ban
3. Promoting natural habitats
4. Celebrating scrappers
5. Recycling rules
6. Planting native plants for birds

Chair Kron will send out other topics to cover via email. Any articles written should be sent to Clare first, then she will send them to Steve. The articles should be limited to 500 words.

3. Update on Beekeeping Ordinance

A link was sent out of a model ordinance as well as a draft of one that was prepared by Steve Honeywell.

The mayor suggested that an ordinance be turned in to have an attorney look it over and get the process in motion.

MOTION

Mr. Honeywell moved to submit the ordinance to Ruth, second by Mr. Lopez

VOTE

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote of those present.

4. Leaf-burning Ordinance

A sample letter was sent to commissioners to review. After reviewing the commission agreed to follow on motion to approve and move forward.

MOTION

Ann moved to submit letter, second by Mr. Honeywell.

VOTE

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote of those present.

5. Other updates on previously discussed items

a. Lighting ordinance

Mr. Lopez shared information on the light ordinance for the village of Homer Glenn as well as a sample ordinance from International Dark Sky Association (IDA). Issues of concern will be neighborhood safety, and unnecessary changes.

b. Monarch city enrollment

Two emails have been sent to the person in charge, however, there has been no response. We are currently eligible for new signs.

c. Year-end report

There still is not a year-end report for the year of 2020.

d. Backyard chickens

A local citizens group of interested people wanted to know if there was anything that we could do to clear up some misconceptions on backyard chickens. The commission agrees there can be a presentation put together prior to the April elections.

MOTION

Adrian Motioned to contact citizens group and sponsor a presentation put together by them, second by Mr. Honeywell.

VOTE

Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote of those present.

H. Announcements

1. No new announcements

I. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm