

**MINUTES
CITY OF DEKALB
CITIZENS' ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 7, 2019**

The Citizens' Environmental Commission held a regular business meeting on March 7, 2019, in the Executive Conference Room at the DeKalb Municipal Building, 200 South Fourth Street, DeKalb, Illinois, 60115.

Chair Kenney called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

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

X Dan Kenney (Chair)	Ken Koch	Mary McGinn
X Clare Kron (Vice-Chair)	X Bill Oleckno	X Rachel Farrell
Sharon Skala	X Ann Shult	

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

Amy Doll, DeKalb Park District
Mike Holland, Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District
X Christine Lagattolla, Northern Illinois University
Veronica Polvi, DeKalb County Health Department

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Kenney asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Items G.1 (Logo Update) and G.2 (Coal Tar Sealants) both postponed to April 4, 2019 meeting.

MOTION -

Ms. Kron moved to approve the agenda.

Mr. Oleckno seconded the motion.

Agenda was approved unanimously by voice vote.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Smith commended the Commission for working with staff on environmental issues facing the community. Several other people were in attendance but did not make any comments.

D. APPROVAL of MINUTES

Chair Kenney asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting held on February 7, 2019.

MOTION –

Ms. Shult moved to approve the minutes.

Mr. Oleckno seconded the motion with the minor modifications. Ms. Kron also requested minor modifications.

Minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

E. COMMISSION REPORTS

1. DeKalb Park District: Amy Doll
No Report

2. Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District: Michael Holland
No Report.
3. Northern Illinois University: Christine Lagattolla
Ms. Lagattolla mentioned NIU's first sustainability survey was conducted. It was titled BARKS - Behaviors, Attitudes, Resources and Knowledge of Sustainability. She will bring the results to the CEC once they are tabulated.
4. DeKalb County Health Department: Veronica Polvi
No Report
5. City of Dekalb: Patrick DiDiana
Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) has started taking requests for hazardous household waste home collections online and by phone. Requests for April collections will be taken through March 31, 2019. Mr. DiDiana also noted the previous staff liaison's (Tim Holdeman's) initiative to honor a 384-year-old Bur Oak tree located on the east bank of the Kishwaukee River. In response, Chairman Kenney requested the contact information for Michael Kirk.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Bill Nicklas Report on LED Lights, Chicken Ordinance, and electric charging stations.
 - a. LED Lights: Mr. Nicklas provided Commission members the model number of the LED lighting fixture ComEd has installed on streetlights throughout the City. He also reviewed the manufacturer's product specifications and explained the role the screen plays in diffusing and directing the lighting emitted. Ms. Kron inquired if the screen Mr. Nicklas spoke about was the same as the shielding apparatus she was concerned with. They both agreed they spoke of the same part. Mr. Nicklas also mentioned the lights include dimming capabilities. Ms. Kron stated Mr. Gaulrapp of ComEd revealed the current LED lights are not dimmable. Mr. Nicklas agreed to follow-up with Mr. Gaulrapp.
 - b. Electric Charging Stations: Mr. Nicklas mentioned there may be an opportunity to use TIF funds to purchase a charging station for electric cars if the cost remained between \$10,000 to \$15,000. He will present the request to City Council in April and report back to the Commission.
 - c. Backyard Chicken Ordinance: Mr. Nicklas announced he will bring the backyard chicken ordinance to City Council for consideration at the City Council meeting on April 22, 2019.
2. Plastic Bag Restriction Ordinance: Discussion
Commission agreed to postpone further action on this item to allow for Illinois legislators to make their recommendation.
3. Police Interceptor
Mr. Nicklas recommended Police Chief Lowery attend the next meeting to further discuss the City of Chicago's recommendation to utilize the Ford Police Interceptor Utility. Ms. Shult agreed to conduct further research on this topic.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Logo Update
Postponed to April 4, 2019 meeting.
2. Coal Tar Sealants
Postponed to April 4, 2019 meeting.
3. Research of Energy companies to perform a citywide energy report
Postponed to April 4, 2019 meeting.
3. Report on research into other energy companies
Postponed to April 4, 2019 meeting.
4. Updates on other items discussed previously
In response to comments by Bill Oleckno in an article published by the Mid-Week, Ms. Kron went on the record with an official statement, **Exhibit A**.

Mr. Oleckno responded to Ms. Kron's comments by going on the record with the comments detailed in **Exhibit B**.

Chairman Kenney suggested further discussions on the April 4, 2019 meeting to allow time to revisit the ordinance draft and consider statements by Mr. Oleckno and Ms. Kron. Mr. Nicklas confirmed he would wait for the Commission to discuss the ordinance at the next meeting and wait for an update before going to City Council for consideration.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 4, 2019, 4:00 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kenney moved to adjourn the meeting.
Ms. Shult seconded.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Kenney declared the meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Patrick DiDiana, Staff Liaison

EXHIBIT A

Per the Wednesday, February 27, 2019, article in Midweek regarding the backyard chickens debate:

The proponents of backyard chickens in DeKalb are dedicated to promoting the well-being of all inhabitants of the city as they thoroughly research the benefits and risks of bringing chickens into the community. Careful examination of local and nationwide experience with raising chickens in a town setting as well as recommendations made by health authorities, such as the Centers for Disease Control, are all considered in the effort to change the current ordinance to favor adding chickens to the list of animals allowed within the city limits. At no time is "opinion" and lack of facts directing the proposal to permit a limited number of DeKalb residents to own backyard chickens. Every effort has been made to assure both the individual owners as well as the flocks are highly regulated and monitored. While it is acknowledged that some individuals may neglect the birds they own, such behavior is not limited to chickens. Aberrant human behavior cannot be used as a reason to dismiss allowing backyard chickens as it does not cause a ban on keeping dogs, cats, parakeets, guinea pigs, etc. Nor can the claim that chickens carry disease be used to thwart the effort as there is salmonella on every chicken brought home from a store; proper handling not banning is the key to human protection. The proponents have determined after extensive research that the benefits, such as knowledge of one's food source and proper animal care, outweigh the risks of both disease transmission and neglect. Finally, the current draft proposal requires three years of monitoring by the CEC which will virtually eliminate all concern of abiding ill effects in the city.

Submitted for the record to the CEC by Clare Kron, March 7, 2019

EXHIBIT B

URBAN CHICKENS IN DEKALB: SOME ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES

I find it amazing that those who are promoting lifting the ban on raising chickens in DeKalb seem to be *so unconcerned* with the welfare of chickens.

For example, do you know that?

1. Chickens in the wild lay fewer than 20 eggs a year and live up to 30 years, while urban chickens have been bred to lay eggs incessantly, often 300-350 per year. This unnatural state causes a number of reproductive diseases, 90% of which result in premature death. One of these reproductive diseases, known as "egg yolk peritonitis," occurs when an egg ruptures in the hen, causing a miserable death.
2. For every egg laying hen, there is a rooster that will be slaughtered or abandoned. Approximately 50% of the chicks hatched for sale are roosters, and they are not recognizable as such until about 4-6 months of age. Once recognized, they are generally killed or abandoned.
3. The recent interest in raising urban chickens is now overwhelming animal rescue organizations with unwanted chickens. Illegal abandonment is also becoming another serious issue. One DeKalb County farming family recently reported taking in over 75 unwanted chickens.
4. Chicken flocks are highly developed social structures, and roosters are a natural part of the chicken society. They alert hens to dangers, guard hens from predators, and intervene in disputes among hens. Chicken flocks without roosters represent an unnatural social system.
5. Chickens do not survive well in harsh climates like that in northern Illinois. They need temperatures above 32 degrees in the winter and below 85 degrees in the summer in order to prosper. Coops must therefore be adequately heated and cooled to provide protection from things like frostbite, freezing, dehydration, heat prostration, and other problems. Many shelters report receiving unwanted chickens with frozen feet and other weather-related problems, not to mention many forms of diseases to which chickens are readily susceptible.

Reference: *Chicken Run Rescue: Municipal Regulation* (available on request).