

MINUTES  
CITY OF DEKALB  
Citizens' Environmental Commission  
July 6, 2023

The Citizens' Environmental Commission (CEC) held a regular meeting on July 6, 2023, in the Second Floor Training Room at the DeKalb Police Department.

Chair Steve Honeywell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**A. Roll Call**

Roll call was recorded by Management Analyst Scott Zak, and the following members of the CEC were present: Chair Steve Honeywell, Rachel Farrell, Julie Jesmer, Clare Kron, Shaun Langley and Council Liaison Barb Larson. Not present were Commissioners Nick Newman and Ex-Officio Members James Carlin, Matt Emken, Sarah Fox and Mike Holland.

Also present was Management Analyst Scott Zak.

**B. Approval of Agenda**

MOTION

Ms. Kron motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Farrell.

VOTE

The agenda was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**C. Public Comments**

No public comments were received.

**D. Approval of Minutes**

**1. Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2023**

MOTION

Mr. Langley motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Farrell.

VOTE

The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**E. Commission Reports**

**1. DeKalb County Health Department**

With Ex-Officio Member Carlin absent, no report was given.

**2. DeKalb Park District**

With Ex-Officio Member Emken absent, no report was given.

### **3. Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District**

With Ex-Officio Member Holland absent, no report was given.

### **4. Northern Illinois University**

With Ex-Officio Member Fox absent, no report was given.

### **5. City Staff Liaison**

Mr. Zak reported that Tom Riley would be resigning from the Commission.

Mr. Zak reported DeKalb Public Transit is getting its first two electric buses. The State of Illinois has awarded the Department two electric paratransit buses as part of a pilot program. Transit staff will be meeting with IDOT this month to discuss a timeline for implementation.

Chair Honeywell noted Metra service is being extended to Rockford and believes this is good news for the possible extension to DeKalb.

## **G. Old Business**

The Commission agreed to move the Old Business items before New Business.

### **1. Park district flower beds**

Commission members shared that weeding of Park District flower beds is going well.

### **2. Next articles for Daily Chronicle August—Forever chemicals**

Ms. Kron said Mr. Newman will be writing the next article describing forever chemicals and the following month, she will describe how they are being treated in DeKalb.

### **3. Future presentations—monarchs, fusion, home efficiency**

Ms. Kron shared the NIU STEM Café on fusion has been set for Nov. 15 at 6:30 p.m. The Commission will cosponsor the presentation along with 350Kishwaukee.

### **4. Updates on other issues**

Ms. Kron shared LRS is available to do tours of its recycling plant on Fridays. Chair Honeywell and Ms. Kron agreed to take a tour.

Ms. Farrell said residents lighting fireworks on the Fourth of July was a problem this year. She said she realizes the Police Department does not have time to address firework offenses but noted fireworks were still being set off after 3 a.m. She said along with being disruptive, fireworks cause pollution. Mr. Zak suggested the Commission do a public education campaign next June.

## **F. New Business**

### **1. Sustainability Plan discussion and update**

Ms. Kron presented a spreadsheet that combined the goals from the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact, the City's existing Sustainability Plan and goals generated through public input.

Given the length of the spreadsheet and concerns the updated plan may be too long, the Commission discussed what the final format of the plan should look like. Alderwoman Larson said the complexity of the spreadsheet would be overwhelming for a novice. She suggested the plan be two parts – an easy-to-read summary followed by the detailed spreadsheets. Ms. Kron said she has found plans from other cities that could serve as the model for DeKalb’s layout.

The Commission attempted to go through the spreadsheet line by line to decide which recommendations to keep or remove. It was decided this process would be too time consuming and that instead, the Commission member assign to each section would remove irrelevant items from the spreadsheet and write a draft narrative summarizing the goals and sub-goals. Ms. Kron said the items in orange in the spreadsheet should be kept since they came from the public input gathered by NIU students. The Commission decided to vote on this method.

#### MOTION

Ms. Kron motioned that each Commissioner should write a summary of the goals and sub-goals of their assigned section of the Sustainability Plan, seconded by Ms. Jesmer.

#### VOTE

The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Honeywell clarified that while each section editor can eliminate goals from the spreadsheet, they may be added back during the review process. Ms. Kron said the summaries should also include accomplishments since the Plan was created.

### **H. Announcements**

#### **1. New announcements**

No information was shared here.

#### **2. Next regular meeting: August 3 at 4:30 p.m.**

### **I. Adjournment**

#### MOTION

Ms. Jesmer motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Farrell.

#### VOTE

The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was declared adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Scott Zak, Management Analyst

Approved by the Citizens’ Environmental Commission on September 7, 2023.