

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Agenda

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

6 PM, Centre of Elgin, East Conference Room, 100 Symphony Way

A. Call to order (chairperson)

B. Roll Call (staff liaison)

Commissioners Anderson, Frazier, Masterson, Jacox, Knoerr, Segel present.

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Minutes were approved.

D. Discussion Items

1. 2012 Neighborhood Improvement Grant Application for Elgin Shared Harvest Food Co-op feasibility study

Shared Harvest Food Co-op representatives Don Obenauf, Chris Watson, Jennifer Benson and Kathy Haerr were present and discussed the Shared Harvest Food Co-op's desire to have the Sustainability Commission fund 50% of a feasibility study to determine if a food co-op could exist in downtown Elgin. Two proposals were received ranging in price from \$9,000 and \$11,000. The Shared Harvest's application sought funding for the \$11,000 proposal. Matching funds would come from stock sales in the corporation. In general the commission was supportive of the idea of funding a feasibility study for the co-op. Commissioner Knoerr asked what the Shared Harvest would do if the study indicated a food co-op would not be feasible. The representatives from the Shared Harvest indicated they would make whatever changes necessary per the report so the concept is feasible. During the discussion it was found that the Shared Harvest was incorporated as a for-profit corporation. The commission indicated that the Neighborhood Improvement Grant program is not open to for-profit corporations. Staff Liaison Cosentino noted that for the purposes of the grant application, it should be scored, and then he would determine if indeed the Shared Harvest, as applicant, would be ineligible. The commission scored the grant application as follows:

1. Municipal Compatibility
 - a. Project integrates with the City's Sustainable Master Plan and is consistent with City policy and ordinances (0 to 20 points) **20 points**
 - b. Project or activities require minimal maintenance and staff time (0 to 10 points) **10 points**
2. Community Benefit

- a. Project proposes a creative approach to a neighborhood need or enhancement that helps meet the SMP goals(0 to 15 points) **15 points**
 - b. Project activities address a highly recognized need within the neighborhood (0 to 15 points) **10 points**
3. Participation
- a. Project includes opportunities to involve neighbors in shaping and carrying out the project (0 to 10 points) **8 points**
 - b. The project promotes opportunities to form partnerships with other groups or organizations to complete joint projects or activities (0 to 10 points) **10 points**
4. Project Feasibility
- a. The proposal demonstrates excellence in design, planning, and execution of the proposed project or activity (0 to 10 points) **10 points**
 - b. Budget reliably represents the projects expenses and revenue (0 to 10 points) **10 points**

The commission voted unanimously to fund the application in the amount of \$5,500, assuming the Shared Harvest was found to be an eligible applicant.

2. Discussion of Neighborhood Improvement Grant wrap-up reports

Commissioner Knoerr developed a post-project report for the Neighborhood Improvement Grants. The commission was unanimously supportive of the form and supported requiring applicants to use the form at the end of their projects.

3. Review of proposals from HLR and Pizzo and Associates for native conversion of “No Mow” sites at Lords and Wing Park

Due to the costs of this project, the commission voted to table this item indefinitely.

4. Filming and interview of commissioners for Judson University documentary

E. Working Group Reports

F. Old Business

- 1. Solar and Wind Energy ordinance creation
- 2. WaterSense Toilet Rebate Program Proposal
- 3. Farm Animal Exhibit at Lords Park

G. Commissioner comments/announcements

H. Adjourn

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