

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Agenda

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

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

A. Call to order (chairperson)

Staff Liason Cosentino introduced the commission to Elgin Police Deputy Chief Bill Wolf, the newest member of the commission.

B. Roll Call (staff liaison)

Commissioners Anderson, Bell, Frazier, Jacox, Jacobs, Knoerr, Masterson, Segel, Wolf present

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Minutes of May 14 were approved with an adjustment adding Commissioner Frazier to the list of attendees

Minutes of June 18 special meeting were approved.

D. Discussion Items

1. Review of Neighborhood Improvement Grant Program Application – Century Oaks West Subdivision Median Landscaping

Constance Krajecki and another member of the subdivision attended the meeting. The application was for landscaping to be applied to the median at the entrance of Century Oaks West. Ms. Krajecki indicated that there is not a homeowners' association and maintenance has been left to a small group of residents. The median has become an eyesore for the community and they would like assistance in cleaning it up and refreshing its plants. Ms. Krajecki had initially visited the Mayor, who referred her to this the Neighborhood Improvement grant program. The commission was concerned about maintenance. The residents indicated that their small group of residents would continue maintenance of the median to count as their matching funds. The commission scored the proposal 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 10 points) 10 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) 15 points
3. Participation
- a. Project includes opportunities to involve neighbors in shaping and carrying out the project (0 to 10 points) 10 points
 - b. The project promotes opportunities to form partnerships with other groups or organizations to complete joint projects or activities (0 to 10 points) 5 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) 5 points
 - c. The proposed project meets all grant guidelines and provides detailed matching contribution by identifying specific dollar matching amounts and specific volunteer scheduling as opposed to generalized representations of matching dollar amounts or volunteer support (0 to 10 points) 5 points

Total: 85

Comments: The application was approved unanimously; Commissioner Anderson removed herself from voting, as this is her neighborhood.

2. Sustainability Dashboard Development (Commissioner Masterson)

Commissioner Masterson described his interest in developing a real-time dashboard for city operations, environmental data and building performance modeled after the city of Oberlin and Oberlin College's dashboard. <http://oberlindashboard.org/>. Commissioner Wolf asked if this data would actually change the communities behavior, or if this would simply track information for that reason alone. Commissioner Segel and Knoerr commented that putting this data out to the public in an easily accessible format would increase transparency and might change the way residents interact or participate in decision making. Commissioner Masterson noted that he would also like to work with Judson and Elgin Community College to broaden the scope of the dashboard.

Action Items:

- Contact representatives from ECC and Judson to determine level of interest
- Contact professor from Oberlin College to determine scope and cost of project

3. Urine Town Partnership (Commissioner Jacobs)

Commissioner Jacobs is involved with the production of Urine Town, a musical about the government charging its citizens to use the bathroom, and the subsequent revolt that ensues from such a infringement. He proposed the commission sponsor the event, not monetarily, but through cross promotion on the commission's Facebook page.

The commission had concerns that the subject matter was not in-line with the commission's goals. For instance the play involved murdering individuals by throwing them off a building and had a "dark" ending. The commission also expressed concerns that despite no money being exchanged, the word "sponsor" implies money which might raise questions in the community on what the commission and by extension, the city of Elgin is spending money on. The commission indicated they were open to sponsoring artistic events such as Water Day or a play with a clear environmental message. Commissioner Jacobs motioned to sponsor the play. The motion died for lack of a second.

E. Working Group Reports

None.

F. Old Business

1. Solar and Wind Energy ordinance creation – On track to be completed by the end of the year. The ordinance is to be submitted to the planning and zoning commission.
2. 2012 Neighborhood Improvement Grant Application for Elgin Shared Harvest Food Co-op feasibility study – The city of Elgin legal department is determining if the city can sponsor the feasibility study.
3. Food Scrap composting – No update.
4. Education and outreach proposal – Commissioner Dave Segel – Commissioner Segel describe his vision for an education and outreach proposal. The commission agreed it theory, but struggled to find a tangible initiative that could be voted on. The commission encouraged commissioner Segel to continue his outreach efforts, but also to bring groups back to the commission, similar to what was done with the Elgin Youth Leadership Academy. The commission also expressed interest in

developing an event focused around organic gardening. The commission will hold a special meeting to determine details on this event.

G. Commissioner comments/announcements

Commissioner Masterson indicated that he had called Freedom Field to schedule a trip there, but had not heard from them.

H. Adjourn

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