

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Agenda

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

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

A. Call to order (chairperson)

B. Roll Call (staff liaison)

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

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Minutes were approved.

D. Discussion Items

1. Friends of the Fox Watershed Educator Updated Proposal

Staff Liaison Cosentino described the updated proposal. Since the last meeting, city staff identified additional funding within the city's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit contract with Baxter and Woodman Engineering. This consultant agreement is for services related to obtaining the city's NPDES permit from the Illinois EPA. This permit is necessary because the city has combined sewer overflows that enter the Fox River. As part of this permit process, aside from data upkeep and general administration of the permit, is an educational component, specifically, classroom education. With several years already spent organizing the city's program the consultant had indicated a desire to expand educational efforts. These efforts would assist the city in obtaining the permit. In the past NPDES educational funds have been spent on developing water bill inserts and classroom education through the water conservation district, but not to the scale proposed by the Friends of the Fox. The NPDES budget for education is \$5,000 all of which would be contributed to this proposal. The sustainability commission would then contribute an additional \$5,000 for a total of \$10,000. As a stipulation of this funding the Friends of the Fox agrees to only service Elgin schools, unless other funding partners are found. According to Gary Swick of the Friends of the Fox, the educator is already chosen and is a retired U46 teacher familiar with stormwater management and water testing.

The commission voted unanimously to approve this proposal.

2. Budget Update and 2014 Focus/Goals

Budget Item	Cost	Notes
ICLEE Membership		Annual
Implement STAR Communities Index - \$500 - \$5,000	\$ 500	
Water Day Sponsorship	\$ 1,700	Increased \$700
Green Expo Sponsorship	\$ 2,500	
Hosting a Harvest event	\$ 2,000	
Convert "No Mow Zones" to native landscapes - \$47,860		
Conservation@Home	\$ 5,050	Additional information needed to justify cost
Electric vehicle charging stations, split the cost with Fox Valley – Unknown cost		Attempt to install in 2013
Friends of the Fox	\$ 5,000	Paired with \$5,000 from NPDES Permit
Education Initiatives/Quote for engineering services for green roof for EPD	\$ 10,000	
Commissioner Education	\$ 1,500	Ecological Restoration Courses (4 @ \$375 each)
Promotion of green technology and job creation (postage and design)	\$ 1,700	
TOTAL	\$ 29,950	

The commission deliberated and unanimously agreed to pursue the initiatives listed above.

E. Working Group Reports

Todd Martin from the Strategic Planning Advisory Commission (SPAC) indicated that the SPAC would be discussing the city's waste hauling agreement requirements. The commission indicated interest in providing input to this process related to food scrap composting and other environmentally sustainable waste hauling practices.

F. Old Business

1. Solar and Wind Energy ordinance creation – No Update
2. Food Scrap composting – Discussed above
3. Freedom Field Visit, Sept. 21 – Chairman Masterson asked the commissioners to assist in finding individuals to attend the Freedom Field visit.

G. Commissioner comments/announcements

H. Adjourn

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