

## SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Minutes

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

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

### **A. Call to order (c hairperson)**

### **B. Roll Call (staff I liaison)**

Commissioners Anderson, Bell, Frazier, Jacobs, Masterson, Segel present.

### **C. Approval of previous meeting 's minutes**

Minutes were approved.

### **D. Discussion Items**

#### 1. Presentation by Trish Molley - Larsen Middle School

Trish Molley, teacher at Larsen Middle School and coordinator of the Larsen “Green Team” presented two videos created by her students related to playing outdoors and alternative transportation options. The videos were made entirely by her middle school students. The commissioners applauded her group and the videos. Ms. Molley also announced that her group will be recognized by USAgain as one of four student groups in Illinois for Outstanding Environmental Educational Club on November 11, 2013, in St. Charles, Illinois.

Ms. Molley reported that her next steps with the club are to travel to other schools and be an “ambassador” to other U46 schools. She asked if the commission would consider funding the transportation of her students and/or the cost for a substitute teacher while she is at another school. Staff Liaison Cosentino indicated those expenditures did not seem appropriate as it would essentially be the city of Elgin paying a teacher’s salary and/or paying for transportation for students of another taxing district. Ms. Molley also asked if the city of Elgin would be willing to assist in finding a computer that her students could use to create these videos. According to Ms. Molley, the computers provided to her students are “netbooks” and unsuitable for creating videos. To create the two videos shown to the commission, she let students use her desktop computer provided by her school. However, those desktop computers were recently replaced with laptops, also unsuitable for video editing. Staff Liaison Cosentino indicted he would ask the city’s IT director if a loaner computer would be available for Ms. Molley’s classroom. Commissioner Anderson also suggested that Ms. Molley use the existing transportation for band and orchestra members, which travels to middle schools weekly. Ms. Molley agreed that was a good idea and will pursue that option.

#### 2. Sustainable Film Festival Proposal

Tom Armstrong with the Elgin Community Network presented a funding request from a cooperative group of non-profits to conduct a four-film festival over the first quarter of 2014. The films would show films about healthy eating and healthy lifestyles at locations throughout Elgin, including the Gail Borden Public Library. Several other groups are participating in the festival including Shared Harvest Food Co-op, Sherman Hospital, Activate Elgin and the Elgin Climate Change Organization. The total cost of the event is \$3,250. The request to the commission was for \$1,000. Mr. Armstrong noted that funding this item would meet the Healthy Living and Community Education Goal #1 in the Sustainability Action Plan, Educate the community on the value of sustainable practices and healthy living. Specifically the proposal would meet, Objective #4, Promote healthy eating habits and Objective #6, Disseminate information about sustainable practices and healthy living to the community through traditional media and other creative marketing resources.

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) **10 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) **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) **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) **5 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: 75/100

The commission voted to approve this request, Commissioner Anderson voted against the proposal noting the budget was not specific enough.

### 3. I-Go Presentation (tentative)

This item did not occur.

### 4. Detention Basin Proposal Review

Staff Liaison Cosentino noted that after reviewing the project with city engineering and utilities department he did not recommend the commission move forward with the project. As designed, the basin at Shales and Bode Road fills with stormwater if the existing storm sewer surcharges, which only occurs in heavy rains. When converting basins to naturalized states it is preferable to have even low-volume rain events drain into the basin for filtration. For this reason Staff Liaison Cosentino felt spending this amount of the commission's funds on a project with minimal water quality benefit is not advisable. Commissioner Bell disagreed and felt this project was more related to landscaping and, similar to the commission's no-mow zones, was about establishing native landscapes on city property to reduce mowing and increase naturalized habitats. The basin would also provide some water quality benefit during larger rain events. Commissioner Bell also noted that this would remove this basin from his department's mowing contract thereby savings funds annually. The commission agreed with Commissioner Bell and voted to move forward with the project using Integrated Lakes Management's proposal in the amount of \$16,333. Commissioner Anderson asked that a volunteer planting day be incorporated into this project to reduce costs.

### 5. Freedom Field Wrap-Up Report (Chairman Masterson)

Chairman Masterson reported on a September 21 visit to Freedom Field in Rockford, Illinois. He showed the commission several pictures attached hereto. Chairman Masterson also reported on a Windmill dedication ceremony which occurred October 18, 2013, pictures also attached.

### 6. Green Aggregation Sponsor Discussion

Staff Liason Cosentino reported that Sandy Kaptain of the Sierra Club had asked the commission to sponsor a green aggregation workshop. This workshop would provide information about electric aggregation. There would be no cost to the commission. The commission agreed to sponsor the event.

## **E. Working Group Reports**

Tom Armstrong of the Transportation and Mobility working group reported that the first comprehensive plan public meeting will be held sometime in November.

## **F. Old Business**

1. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - This item will be presented to the city council at its October 23 meeting.
2. Solar and Wind Energy ordinance creation - Commissioner Segel mentioned that he had spoken to some community members that were frustrated with the delays in this ordinance and asked that Staff Liaison Cosentino follow up to determine what the commission can do to help move the item along.
3. Food Scrap composting - Commissioner Segel noted that he will approach the Strategic Planning Advisory Commission (SPAC) related to this item. The SPAC is currently reviewing the city's solid waste contract in preparation for re-bidding it in 2014.
4. Friends of the Fox Educator Proposal - Staff Liason Cosentino indicated this contract is in the process of legal review.

## **G. Commissioner comments/announcements**

Commissioner Masterson reported that he will be attending Elgin Community College's Energy Management Division advisory board meeting in November.

Commissioner Jacobs reported that he is directing a play, Angel Street, at the Albright Theatre in Batavia.

## **H. Adjourn**

The City of Elgin is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities, are requested to contact ADA coordinator, at (847) 931-6076, or TTY/TDD (847) 931-5616 promptly to allow the City of Elgin to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.