

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Agenda

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

6 PM, Robert Gilliam Municipal Complex,

City Hall, Second Floor South Conference Room, 150 Dexter Ct.

A. Call to order (chairperson)

B. Roll Call (staff liaison)

Commissioners Anderson, Frazier, Hernandez, Knoerr, Masterson & Segel present

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

September 2014 meeting minutes approved

D. Discussion Items

1. Riverside Manor Entry Way Site Improvements

DeeDee Michon, an Elgin resident of over 30 years, who resides in Riverside Manor, has raised \$2250 to redesign and improve the entry way to the neighborhood. She is asking that we match that amount with funds from the Neighborhood Improvement Grant. Commissioners were given a packet of information on the project prior to the meeting. With an updated City of Elgin landscaping proposal handed out at the meeting, commissioners were able to evaluate the project with relevant numbers and diagrams. DeeDee answered questions from commissioners, and left the meeting so the commission could make a decision. The commission scored the project as follows:

Neighborhood Improvement Grant Scoring Sheet

Project: Riverside Manor Entry Way

Date: 11/11/2014

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***
- b. *Project or activities require minimal maintenance and staff time (0 to 10 points) **10***

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***
- b. *Project activities address a highly recognized need within the neighborhood (0 to 15 points) **15***

3. *Participation*

- a. *Project includes opportunities to involve neighbors in shaping and carrying out the project (0 to 10 points) **10***

- b. *The project promotes opportunities to form partnerships with other groups or organizations to complete joint projects or activities (0 to 10 points) 10*

4. *Project Feasibility*

- a. *The proposal demonstrates excellence in design, planning, and execution of the proposed project or activity (0 to 10 points) 10*
- b. *Budget reliably represents the projects expenses and revenue (0 to 10 points) 10*
- 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*

Total: 95/100

Comments: The commission would like to suggest some plant revisions to the project in order to bring in more natives species that will bloom over the seasons. The commission will not compensate for relocation of sign, but agrees to match the funds raised by the neighborhood for landscaping.

The commission, under the condition that they swap out some plants from the proposal to provide more native plants, will support this project and match the \$2250 raised by the neighborhood for the project.

**2. Northern Illinois Renewable Energy Summit & Expo
Presentation and discussion led by Chairman Gary Masterson and
Commissioner David Segel**

Chairmen Masterson and Commissioner Segel shared brief presentations received from the Northern Illinois Renewable Energy Expo & Summit that they attended together in October. Some presentations were specifically about education, while others shared success stories of companies or entrepreneurs. Presentations shown included: Sweden, Method Chicago Plant, Multifilm in Elgin, Northern Illinois Renewable Energy, Car Sharing and Home Kits, Rock River Environmental Services, Whole Trees, as well as Freedom Field.

E. Working Group Reports

F. Old Business

1. STAR Communities Program

Commissioner Hernandez has talked to a few professors at ECC, and they are in the process of discussing ways to recruit help, for example, offering extra credit to students that help out. The idea of the program is that it provides a lot of different ways a community can begin to enhance and broaden the ways they address sustainability. Some things will be easier to implement and provide more value, where some things may be difficult to achieve in certain communities. The commission needs to figure out what is realistic to implement here in Elgin. They need to determine what is critical, and where they can have the most influence and results that connects with citizens, in terms of communication and opportunity. The

commission plans to take the sustainability plan categories, and figure out the top three that they select as priority items for 2015, and then determine how we want to address them (outreach, education, possible implementation). The commission will also look at the Sustainable Master Plan and City of Elgin's Strategic Plan to help distinguish these priorities for 2015.

2. Sustainability Honor Roll

The commission will recognize one person or organization per quarter of the year, and spotlight he/she/them in the quarterly newsletter. They will also propose a physical award of some type to be given out, which is to be made of sustainable and/or recycled materials.

3. Conservation @ Home/Work

Commissioner Anderson announced that a Conservation@Home coordinator just joined the Northern Kane County Wild Ones group, and local businesses can now contact her.

G. Commissioner comments/announcements

Commissioner Segel passed out an Illinois Task Force on Civic Education document for the commission to review.

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.