

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
Minutes
Tuesday, December 9, 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, Hernandez, Masterson and Segel present

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

November minutes approved

D. Discussion Items

1. Commission goals and focus for 2015 related to the following:

- i. City of Elgin Strategic Plan**
- ii. City of Elgin Sustainability Master Plan**
- iii. STAR Community Index**

The commission discussed many ideas that would be exciting to try in 2015. While the ideas covered several areas of the Sustainability Master Plan, there was a motion for the commission to focus on the following areas in 2015: Alternative Energy, Green Building Technology and Energy Conservation, Healthy Living and Community Education, as well as Transportation & Mobility. Specific ideas related to those focus areas are listed below:

- *Alternative Energy:* Chairman Masterson expressed the desire to focus on alternative energy and energy conservation. Several parts of the Sustainable Master Plan need to be followed up on, for example, the residential revolving loan program. It would include an energy audit and 0% financing. While these programs exist, we need to advertise them.
- *Green Building Technology and Energy Conservation:* Chairman Masterson suggested the commission reach out to large box stores in the area, and have them install electronic vehicle charging stations and/or wind turbines. Commissioners discussed a few other solar ideas related to Green Building Technology and Energy Conservation. The commission could look into solar gardens. Another idea is to install solar panels on top of parking decks, to supply their own power for lighting, and pass along to charging stations (ie. The Centre Parking Deck). It may be possible to get discounts from a local solar company.
- *Healthy Living and Community Education:* Related to healthy living objectives, Commissioner Anderson suggested we create a connection between ROPE houses, habitat for humanity, and landscaping. There could be opportunities for seed sharing communities and seed libraries that go

beyond vegetables and include wildflowers and native plants. This could involve children collecting seeds in the fall, and planting in the spring. The commission had several ideas for increasing community education related to sustainability in 2015. Commissioner Segel would like to find speakers from Chicago-based companies to deliver presentations in our community. Education for the public and in schools, especially concerning energy in neighborhoods, could be assisted with the Conservation@Home program, as well as Friend of the Fox. It will be important to utilize resources and events (Water Day, Food Day, Green Expo) and support new events (Earth Day at Hawthorne Hill). The commission is to contact the library to set up a presentation series on sustainability. To support this, commissioners will need to look for groups and individuals interested in presenting, and try to format the presentations to occur seasonally. In addition, series should include programs and presentations geared towards adults as well as school groups. Outreach and marketing will be crucial to the success of such a series.

- *Transportation & Mobility*: Chairman Masterson wants police vehicles to convert from gasoline to liquid propane. Government grants exist that can rebate 50-60% of the conversion costs. The conversion allows for more horsepower per volume, and a lower cost. This would require a meeting with head of police fleet. The commission also brought up the idea of biofuels, and looking for companies that will provide sites and maintain them. Elgin is located in an area with access to natural gas, quality composting, and more with the abundance of agriculture.

E. Working Group Reports

F. Old Business

1. Sustainability Honor Roll

i. Voting for 1st nominee to be awarded

Commissioners present turned in their ranked votes for the Sustainability Honor Roll. Commissioners absent had been instructed to email their votes to the liaison, to be integrated.

ii. Ideas for physical award to be given

The commission suggested several ideas for the physical award, including:

- Use a local company, Andersons.
- Award should be personalized with name/material/design.
- Consider a framed certificate, with frame made from recycled material, and holding a representative photo of the nominee with an award logo.

G. Commissioner comments/announcements

Commissioner Hernandez would like the commission to be represented at an entrepreneur event held at Elgin Community College on Wednesday, April 22. Commissioner Segel stated that ECCO is interested in passing an ordinance in Elgin to eliminate plastic bags. He was interested in everyone's thoughts on if this was a realistic implication for the future.

Chairman Masterson suggested the commission request annual presentations from each of the groups we fund (Friends of the Fox, Mighty Acorns), so we can be updated on what they are doing. He also noted that many people are not coming to meetings, and commissioners should consider whether or not this is still an avenue they would like to pursue. In addition, Chairman Masterson also wants to follow up on the retrofit program and other things the commission has started in regards to energy efficiency (Center City Retrofit Grant Program). One objective was to bring solar leasing companies to Elgin. Gary suggests that commissioners go to website, pick out three sections of Sustainable Master Plan, and look for objectives to follow up on. The liaison is to send the commission a list of objectives and what projects have been started, are in progress, and are completed. He will also be looking into more information on the upcoming GreenTown Aurora.

Other commissioner comments were related to the two current vacancies on the commission. Getting more diversity within the commission is a good idea, and the commission could try to find candidates from Judson, U-46, and other Elgin area stakeholder groups.

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.