

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
MINUTES

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

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

A. Call to order (chairperson)

B. Roll Call (staff liaison)

Commission Jacobs was not in attendance.

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Minutes approved.

D. Discussion Items

1. Elgin Green Expo Participation Discussion, Sigi Psimenos, Elgin Climate Change Organization

Sigi Psimenos, Elgin Green Expo coordinator was present. She noted the Green Expo was to occur May 10 and 11, 2013. Unlike last year, there would be no municipal conference component to the Expo. She asked the commission for financial support. The commission voted unanimously to award the Green Expo \$2,500 to cover the rental of the Centre of Elgin's field house. With this level of sponsorship the commission would be able to exhibit in both racquetball courts at the Centre.

2. Illinois Student Environmental Coalition Presentation – Kimberly Ann Rowan, Chicago Region Director

Ms. Rowan was ill and was not present to make this presentation.

3. No Mow Proposal No. 2 - Pizzo and Associates

Aaron Cosentino reviewed a "no mow" site conversion proposal from Pizzo and Associates. The proposal was for the conversion of the current no mow sites in Wing Park and the Eagle Heights neighborhood to native plantings. Seth Crackel, the representative from Pizzo and Associates did not submit a price for any of the Lords Park sites as he indicated the slopes of the sites there would present significant erosion control challenges.

Unlike the previous proposal from Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, the Pizzo and Associates proposal included services beginning in 2013 and did not include Lords Park sites. The commission decided to solicit a revised proposal from HLR as well as get another firm to submit a proposal before making a decision. The item was tabled until revised proposals from

HLR and another firm - to be determined - are received.

4. Sustainability 2012 Budget Review and Proposed 2013 Budget Review

Aaron Cosentino reviewed the commission's budget:

Funding	
Riverboat Fund Allocation	\$25,700
Expenditures	
Complete Streets Policy Development	\$1,000
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Banner	\$130
Mighty Acorns programming at Hawthorne Hill Nature Center	\$9,530
Northwest Earth Institute Books	\$419
Business Cards	\$58
Brochure Boxes for No Mow Zones	\$117
Balance	\$14,446
Potential Projects	
Toilet Rebate	\$10,000
No Mow Conversions	\$10,000 - 25,000

Neighborhood Improvement Grant Funding

Bike Ease of Use Map	\$7,000
Country Brook Native Landscaping	\$3,300
Elgin Area Historical Society Windmill Signage	\$2,880
Fountain Square Parking Lot Plantings	\$2,378
Fox River Pedestrian Bridge	\$15,000
Harvest Market Educational Signage	\$1,000
NENA Butterfly Garden Expansion	\$6,000
TOTAL REMAINING	\$12,442

2013 Outlook

Sustainable Community Initiatives (RB, \$50,970: 2013; \$30,000: 2014-2017)—Funding is provided to fund program and project implementation of the sustainability action plan working groups and to provide funding for educational materials (e.g., printing, postage, and advertising). \$20,970 is encumbered from programs and projects initiated in 2012.

Neighborhood Improvement Grant Program (RB, \$129,280: 2013; \$70,000: 2014-17)—This program provides a funding mechanism to the city's various neighborhood groups to provide financial assistance or neighborhood groups and organizations in the development and implementation of sustainable projects benefiting their respective neighborhoods. The funding is distributed between two grants: the Sustainable Neighborhoods Project Fund (up to \$15,000 grant) and the Small Green Project Fund (grants up to \$1,000). In 2013, \$59,280 is encumbered in approved agreements and will continue as such until the projects are completed or the agreements are terminated.

Urban Design

Chicago Street Metra Station TOD Plan (RB, \$20,000: 2013, \$0: 2014-17)—The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) awarded the city an \$80,000 Regional Technical Assistance Program (RTAP) grant for the Chicago Street Station Area Plan Project. RTAP funds are provided for comprehensive transit planning and market research studies and for the development of innovative approaches to improving access to local transit facilities. Elgin's planning project will result in a transit-oriented redevelopment plan (TOD) for areas adjacent to the Chicago Street Metra station. The plan will accommodate land uses and densities that support transportation options. Funding is provided for the city's 20 percent match of the overall project.

Sidewalk Gap Study & Implementation (RB, \$50,000: 2013; \$50,000: 2014-17)—The city obtained \$100,000 in reimbursable grant funding through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) Community Planning Program to assist with a city sidewalk gap and transit stop study. The city hired a consultant in 2012 to perform the study and the consultant will be continuing its work on the study in 2013.

Neighborhood Sidewalk Program (RB, \$100,000: 2013-17)—The Neighborhood Sidewalk Program was started in 1993 to replace sidewalks with major tripping hazards in older neighborhoods that had not been included in a Neighborhood Street Rehabilitation Program project and were not scheduled within the next five years. Funding was eliminated in 2012 to reimburse the General Fund for the neighborhood street resurfacing program but has been restored in the annual amount of \$100,000 for 2013-17.

Transportation and Mobility

Bikeway Implementation Program (RB, \$1,344,000: 2013; \$2,100,000: 2014; \$0: 2015-17)—The city's Bikeway Master Plan identifies priority segments for bike routes within each quadrant of the city. In the northeast quadrant, Route 1 is proposed to connect the downtown bicycle network at Douglas Avenue and Kimball Street on the west to the existing trail on Congdon Avenue in Cook County on the east. The bikeway will operate via Douglas Avenue, Slade Avenue, Prospect Boulevard and Congdon Avenue. At the city limits, the multi-use trail continues eastward providing access to the Shoe Factory Road Woods and the Poplar Creek Preserve in the Village of Hoffman Estates. Route 4 spans from the west bank of the Fox River paralleling Route 20 to the Sports Complex, crossing McLean Boulevard through the Elgin

Community College Campus to Randall Road and then west to its terminus on Bowes Road at Bowes Creek Road. Both Routes 1 and 4 are receiving 80 percent in federal funding for the total project costs, the grant being administered by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) as part of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ).

Green Infrastructure

Illinois Green Initiative (RB, \$627,900: 2013) – The city received more than \$630,000 to install stormwater best management practices in Elgin’s SWAN neighborhood, served by combined sewers. Funds were awarded through the Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant (IGIG) program administered by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The funded project entails the installation of approximately 24 rain gardens located on public right-of-way and two permeable paver alleyways. The total project cost is \$751,900 and divided as follows: \$117,900 (city share) and \$634,000 (state share).

Tree Replacement (Bluff City Cemetery) (RB, \$66,850: 2013; \$0: 2014-17)—The city allocates funding to replace trees in the right-of-way and other city-owned properties. The emerald ash borer has destroyed a substantial number of trees in the Bluff City Cemetery necessitating that the funds be used for tree removal, rather than replacement, to avoid potential damage to headstones and cemetery visitors.

Tree Replacement (RB, \$250,000: 2013; \$250,000: 2014-15, \$350,000: 2016-2017)—The emerald ash borer has destroyed a substantial number of trees in the city. Funding in this project will be used for tree removal and replacement during the four-year period.

E. Working Group Reports

None.

F. Old Business

1. Complete Streets Policy

Commissioner Ryan Jacox will be presenting the draft policy to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission at its December meeting.

2. Solar and Wind Energy ordinance creation

No update.

3. ITEP Grant Application

Aaron Cosentino reported that the city of Elgin was unsuccessful in its application to construct a pedestrian bridge across the Fox River. Per a phone call with IDOT, it was the project's lack of completed phase I engineering that eliminated it from funding.

4. No Mow Conversion Proposal Status

See above.

5. Conservation Foundation for Educational Services at Hawthorne Hill Nature Center

Aaron Cosentino reported that the item would be brought to city council for final consideration at its next meeting.

6. WaterSense Toilet Rebate Program Proposal

No update.

G. Commissioner comments/announcements

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.