

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Agenda

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

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

A. Call to order (chairperson)

B. Roll Call (staff liaison)

Commissioners Anderson, Jacox, Jacobs, Knoerr, Masterson, Segel present

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Minutes approved.

D. Discussion Items

1. Review of Neighborhood Improvement Grant Program Applications

The commission reviewed the Neighborhood Improvement Grant applications. Six ash tree replacement applications were received. Combined, these applications represent 132 trees throughout Elgin for an approximate reimbursement cost of \$16,005. Applicants include four homeowners' associations, one individual property owner and one manager of several multi-family developments throughout the city. Since trees are meant only to replace ash trees, each applicant was required to submit verification of ash tree removal, or provide assurance that ash trees on their property will be removed prior to seeking reimbursement for any replacement trees. Each applicant selected approved trees from the city's tree preservation ordinance rated A or B. Applicants could also choose trees from the forestry department's recommended species list.

The commission viewed the applications as largely the same and chose to evaluate them as a batch. Commissioners also asked that the city arborist prior to funding review the applications. Each application was supported with the condition that the city arborist review each application and appropriate species mixes were included.

2. Elgin Youth Leadership Academy partnership opportunities

Diane Ortega-Ehreth, Executive Director of the Elgin Youth Leadership Academy (EYLA) spoke to the commission. There are approximately 125 students grades 7 - 12. Students that graduate the program (all six years) are afforded a two year scholarship to Elgin Community College. Eligible students are six graders from within District 509, Elgin Community College.

Action Items

- Set up meeting between interested commissioners and EYLA representatives.

E. Working Group Reports

F. Old Business

1. Solar and Wind Energy ordinance creation

This item was forwarded to the community development department for final review, alterations and submittal to the planning and zoning board.

2. WaterSense Toilet Rebate Program Proposal – No update
3. Farm Animal Exhibit at Lords Park – Former commissioner Todd Martin noted that he had heard the parks and recreation department included the farm zoo in their budget for 2014.
4. 2012 Neighborhood Improvement Grant Application for Elgin Shared Harvest Food Co-op feasibility study

Staff liaison Aaron Cosentino indicated that the city legal department was researching the city's ability to assist the Shared Harvest in funding their feasibility study.

5. Food Scrap composting – No update
6. Education and outreach proposal – Commissioner Dave Segel – No update

G. Commissioner comments/announcements

Former commissioner Todd Martin attended the meeting. Mr. Martin suggested that all non-profit agencies be made aware of the Neighborhood Improvement Grant program.

H. Adjourn

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