

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Minutes

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

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

A. Call to order (chairperson)

B. Roll Call (staff liaison) Commissioners Anderson, Jacobs, Jacox, Knoerr, Masterson and Segel present

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – Commissioner Segel made a motion to amend the minutes. He requested that the reference to his being frustrated with the progress of the draft Solar Energy Ordinance be change to reflect that he was not frustrated but rather those he spoke to were frustrated.

D. Discussion Items

1. Energy Detectives Program Presentation (Christie Chandler-Stahl) Ms. Stahl spoke to the commission about the Gail Borden Library Rakow branch's Energy Detectives Program. The program allows children from fourth to eighth grade to earn an energy detective certificate after going through a series of interactive educational sessions throughout the Library. The commission indicated they would assist the Rakow branch in promoting the program. Ms. Stahl also invited the commission to hold a meeting at the Rakow Branch. The commission was receptive to this idea. Audience Member Bob Belick also suggested the commission look into Climate Cycle, a non-profit that will install an electricity generating bicycle in a public space, then once a certain threshold of electricity generated is met, provide a solar panel to building at no cost. The commission was also receptive of that idea.
2. Elgin Community College Energy Management Program (Andy Erbach) Mr. Erbach presented information to the commission related to Elgin Community College's Energy Management Program. His presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes. The commission similarly told Mr. Erbach they would assist in conducting outreach about his programs.
3. Valley Creek HOA Book Sharing Stations Neighborhood Improvement Grant Application Review – Marita Ainsworth (via phone) and her husband Ron (in-person) presented the Valley Creek HOA's proposal to create five mini-library sites throughout their neighborhood. Mr. Ainsworth showed the commission a short video that was placed on KickStarter.com for the same kind of project in Elgin. Book Sharing Stations are essentially community repositories for books. Residents are encouraged to take books at their leisure and contribute their own. The application sought funding for five stations, with two boxes at each station

(one for children and one for adults) for approximately \$9,400. The commission expressed concern over the application's lack of demonstrable community support. Questions were asked related to how many people would actually use these stations, who would maintain the boxes, how illicit materials would be kept out of the boxes, increased liability of the city by having these boxes on public property, where specifically the boxes would be and the cost. The commission voted to table the item pending further information included a listing of interested members, specific locations and more specific cost information.

4. Bob Belick, Sustainable Strategies Presentations

E. Working Group Reports

F. Old Business

1. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – Staff is still soliciting sponsorships for the stations.
2. Solar and Wind Energy ordinance creation – A draft is complete and will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Board in December.
3. Food Scrap composting – No Update
4. Friends of the Fox Educator Proposal – Contract sent to Gary Swick, president of Friends of the Fox for signature.
5. Detention Basin Proposal Review – 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.