

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Agenda

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

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

A. Call to order (chairperson)

B. Roll Call (staff liaison)

Commissioners Anderson, Jacobs, Knoerr, Masterson and Segel present.

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Minutes were unanimously approved.

D. Discussion Items

1. Introduction to the year, project review and budget review (Staff Liaison Cosentino)

Staff Liaison Cosentino presented the following existing and future project list:

2013 Existing Projects & 2014 Work Plan

Name	Amount
BPAC Ease of Use Map	\$ 7,000
Mighty Acorns	
Elgin Hist Soc Windmill S	\$ 2,468
Elgin Water day	N/A
NENA Butterfly garden	\$ 6,000
Century Oaks Media Planting	\$ 1,250
Healthy Eating Film Fest	\$ 1,000
EHA Anti-Litter Campaign	\$ 3,500
Friends of the Fox Educat	\$ 10,000
Shales & Bode Basin Conv	\$ 17,000
Charging stations	\$ 9,000
Sustainability Initiatives	
Lords Park Elk	\$ 600

Budget Item	Cost
Implement STAR Communities Index - \$500 - \$5,000	\$ 500
Water Day Sponsorship	\$ 1,700
Green Expo Sponsorship	\$ 2,500
Hosting a Harvest event	\$ 2,000
Conservation@Home	\$ 5,050
Friends of the Fox	\$ 5,000
Education Initiatives/Unallocated	\$ 10,000
Commissioner Education	\$ 1,500
Promotion of green technology and job creation (postage and design)	\$ 1,700
TOTAL	\$ 29,950

The commission supported the work plan. Aaron Cosentino also reported the Sustainability Commission's approved 2014 budget was in the amount of \$30,000. The Neighborhood Improvement Grant Program was budgeted in the amount of \$65,810 which represents carry over from previous years. No new funding was added in 2014 nor are funds added in any subsequent year in the five-year plan.

2. Presentation from Mary Lu Seidel from Neighborhood Housing Services regarding *Friendship Trail Proposal*

Mary Lu Seidel asked that the Sustainability Commission lend its support in the form of a letter to the Neighborhood Housing Services' (NHS) Neighborworks Program. The 2014 proposal involves converting an existing city-owned parcel into a native, passive recreation area adjacent to a stream.

Her proposal stated:

"The NHS team proposes recruiting a team of volunteers for its June 2014 NeighborWorks Day to convert two vacant lots along Willow Creek into a natural area and trail, allowing safe access and exploration to the creek's edge at the back of these deep lots. The Ellis Middle School environmental club called the Science N.E.R.D.S. students came up with the name Friendship Trail, which embodies the spirit of community and education that is this project.

The property is located at 315 and 319 Illinois Avenue, just north of Villa Street in the South East Elgin neighborhood."

The commission expressed concerns about the long-term maintenance of the area, noting that the city would not be in a position to assist in the native restoration of the parcel. Mrs. Seidel indicated that NHS would be leasing the parcel from the city and be responsible for the maintenance. She seemed confident that she would be able to locate the necessary restoration services to maintain the area.

Upon addressing their maintenance concerns, the commission unanimously supported the proposal via a letter of support.

3. Energy Detectives Updates Program update (*tentative*)

None.

4. Update on Strategic Planning Advisory Commission activities related to food waste management

Strategic Plan Advisory Commission (SPAC) member Todd Martin reported that the SPAC and

city staff approached all major waste-haulers asked questions related to the feasibility of many potential waste-hauling options, of which food waste composting was one. Mr. Martin reported that nearly all waste-haulers reported that food waste composting would be challenging. The haulers cited high cost and low participation rate for residents. Mr. Martin also reported that the SPAC is generally not supportive of food scrap composting on a residential scale and that if anything, the city should be focused on large scale, single source food waste management with institutions like schools and hospitals.

Mr. Martin did mention that he would be lobbying the SPAC to encourage the use of natural gas trucks powered garbage trucks instead of diesel-fueled trucks. The SPAC was divided on the issue.

E. Working Group Reports - None

F. Old Business

1. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – Staff Liaison Cosentino reported that the city council would be reviewing the electric vehicle charging station at its January 22 meeting.
2. Solar and Wind Energy ordinance creation – No update
3. Food Scrap composting – See above
4. Friends of the Fox Educator Proposal – No update
5. Detention Basin Proposal Review – It was reported that this should be removed from the Old Business category.
6. Valley Creek HOA Book Sharing Stations Neighborhood Improvement Grant Application Review – No update.

G. Commissioner comments/announcements

H. Adjourn

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