

## SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

### Agenda

Tuesday, April 8, 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, Masterson, Segel, Frazier, Hernandez present.

#### **C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes**

Minutes from January 14 and February 11 approved.

#### **D. Discussion Items**

##### **1. Backyard Chicken Discussion (presentation from Christina Aagesen)**

Ms. Aagesen provided a detailed presentation about backyard chicken raising and presented a draft ordinance for the commission to consider a copy of which is attached hereto. The commission unanimously voted to move forward with public outreach and development of a draft ordinance to submit for city council consideration.

##### **2. Neighborhood Improvement Grant Review**

###### **i. Century Oaks Median Amendment (2013)**

The commission considered a request by the Century Oaks HOA to amend their original application and incorporate additional native species. The commission reviewed the revised cost estimate and determine that it would be more cost effective for the city to purchase the plants wholesale and install the plants using a volunteer planting day. The commission unanimously approved this course of action.

###### **ii. Gateway Project Task Force Legal Fund (2014)**

Mr. John Kavalunas presented to the commission outlining the Bowes Creek Active Adult communities initiative to halt or redirect high-intensity power lines that would be placed adjacent to his subdivision. According to Mr. Kavalunas, the plan for these wires includes removing trees that currently buffer his subdivision and is home to wildlife. Having exhausted other arguments, he proposed to use the commission's funds to either 1) conduct a tree inventory to determine the species of the trees that are to be removed, thereby making the argument that they provide an environmental benefit to the surrounding ecosystem or 2) hiring an expert witness that would make a similar statement about the environmental value of the

swath of trees. The commission voted to table this item until more information was available concerning the efficacy of conducting a tree inventory and/or retaining an expert witness.

### **iii. Willow Lakes Estates Memorial (2014)**

Mr. Ray Russell presented to the commission outlining Willow Lakes Estates application for funding to complete Phase II of Memorial Island. The project would improve portions of an island within Willow Lakes Estates to commemorate veterans, prisoners of war, police and fire fighters. The end product will be a walking path to an engraved stone memorial and American flag post. Having already raised more than \$10,000 and installed the flag, the neighborhood is attempting to raise the remaining \$3,588 to complete the project. A dedication ceremony is planned for Saturday, May 24. The commission scored the application as follows:

1. **Municipal Compatibility**
  - a. Project integrates with the City's Sustainable Master Plan and is consistent with City policy and ordinances (0 to 10 points) 10 points
  - b. Project or activities require minimal maintenance and staff time (0 to 10 points) 10 points
2. **Community Benefit**
  - a. Project proposes a creative approach to a neighborhood need or enhancement that helps meet the SMP goals(0 to 15 points) 7 points
  - b. Project activities address a highly recognized need within the neighborhood (0 to 15 points) 10 points
3. **Participation**
  - a. Project includes opportunities to involve neighbors in shaping and carrying out the project (0 to 10 points) 10 points
  - b. The project promotes opportunities to form partnerships with other groups or organizations to complete joint projects or activities (0 to 10 points) 10 points
4. **Project Feasibility**
  - a. The proposal demonstrates excellence in design, planning, and execution of the proposed project or activity (0 to 10 points) 10 points
  - b. Budget reliably represents the projects expenses and revenue (0 to 10 points) 10 points
  - c. The proposed project meets all grant guidelines and provides detailed matching contribution by identifying specific dollar matching amounts and specific volunteer scheduling as opposed to generalized representations of matching dollar amounts or volunteer support (0 to 10 points) 10 points

The commission unanimously approved the grant application.

### **3. Subjects for Tables for Green Expo**

The commission voted to include the following table for the Green Expo.

- Meet and Greet for speakers before and after their presentation
- Hawthorne Hill Nature Center
- SWAN Neighborhood Rain Garden project
- Envision Elgin comprehensive plan update
- Elgin Community College Sustainability Club

### **4. Sustainability Honor Roll Nominations**

Chairman Masterson asked the commission to consider which organizations would be good candidates for a Sustainability Honor Roll program. The program would publicly recognize businesses or other groups that are actively contributing to the environmental health of the city of Elgin. The commission suggested that instead or in addition to the Sustainability Honor Roll, an environmental component be worked into the Elgin Image Awards, an existing annual award event.

#### **E. Working Group Reports**

#### **F. Old Business**

#### **G. Commissioner comments/announcements**

#### **H. Adjourn**

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