

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

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

A. Call to order (chairperson)

B. Roll Call (staff liaison)

Commissioners Anderson, Frazier, Hernandez, Jacobs, Masterson, and Segel present

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Minutes from August 2014 meeting were approved

D. Discussion Items

1. STAR Communities Program

The purpose of purchasing the STAR Communities Program was to use it to establish a baseline and then look at different metrics that we want to adopt in order to measure progress on where we're at with sustainability and other STAR community index items. It would require a lot of data collection (time) but if we could create a report, we can evaluate where we are at in comparison to other communities. There is no commitment to publicizing where we stand. The question lies in who will collect the data, as it will be very time consuming. Commissioners discussed an interest in moving forward with it. It would require individuals to take initiative and collect data. There was a motion to further review the program and identify areas that commissioners would like to take on responsibility for retrieving data, and well as find participants through outreach (ie., ECC, Judson, the city's website, social media sites, and/or newsletter).

E. Working Group Reports

F. Old Business

1. Food Day Month/Harvest Fest

Commissioner Segel updated commission on the status of the Food Day event. The issue is constant, so they would like it to be an ongoing event. They would like to have a quarterly meeting, connected to the food seasons. Instead of one big event, they would like to have several small events throughout the year that lead up to the main event. As time was restricted with getting a contract completed, it was decided to have the event take place next year. This will allow for more time to plan and promote.

2. Sustainability Honor Roll

The Walking Bookclub at Gail Borden Library was nominated by Melissa. The program encourages getting outside, being active, learning, and being social.

There was discussion of having our honor roll highlighted in the city newsletter quarterly, as well as posting recognition on website and social media. It was suggested to review nominees and select one person/business/organization per quarter to feature in the newsletter.

3. Conservation@Home

April contacted Siemens, and did not receive any interest in Conservation@Work. Melissa contacted James McKee from ECC, and the conversation is still in progress.

G. Commissioner comments/announcements

1. 2nd Annual Northern Illinois Energy Summit & Expo

Gary briefed commission on opportunity to attend the expo taking place October 9 & 10. The commission could pay registration fee if there are interested commissioners. We will pass information along to Chamber of Commerce, ECC, and Judson.

2. Fox River Country Day School Trip

Gary provided a slideshow of photos from the previous week's visit to Fox River Country Day School. He briefly discussed some ideas that were suggested, as to the future use of the property. There are not restrictions on the use of the property, but there are regarding what can be added to the property.

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.