



Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

6 PM, Robert Gilliam Municipal Complex,  
City Hall, Second Floor South Conference Room, 150 Dexter Ct.

**A. Call to order (chairperson) unusual**

Chairman Masterson called the meeting to order.

**B. Roll Call (staff liaison)**

Chairman Masterson as well as Commissioners Frazier, Hernandez, Jacobs, Knoerr and Segel present

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

March minutes were approved unanimously.

**D. Discussion Items**

**1. Neighborhood Improvement Grant: Elgin Historic District Self-Guided Tour (print) & Historic Elgin Mobile App.**

**i. Project coordinator, Dan Miller, will describe the project & the commission will score the project based on grant criteria.**

Pat Miller, representing the Gifford Neighborhood Association, described the Elgin Historic District grant application and the two parts to the project. They wish to create an interactive map which features the past thirty three (33) years of historic house-tour homes, so that someone with a cell phone can easily locate and review information relative to every historic home that have ever been on the tour. Available information would include artist drawings, wide-angle photos, histories, and drone videos from those owners that permit. Pat admitted it will be challenging to contact all 240+ people and get their permission, but the videographer, Milan Shah, is willing to do so. Aaron Cosentino, from the city of Elgin, stated that the city can help find owner contact information within property records to assist in this process. If current owners are willing, the group can interview them to attain audio footage for the app. Pat stated this project would have similarities to Realtor.com, a map-oriented site, which displays every entry to the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). She also stated that Milan wants to make a large part of the mentioned information be accessed offline. Commissioner Frazier asked how long it would take to get the app up and running. Pat said part of the agreement would be to add this year and past 3 years' data, and have that portion completed by July 4, 2015. At that point, the public would be able to download the app. After the initial release, ten (10) historic home sites will be added per month until all are listed.

**2. Gail Borden Public Library recycling event in June.**

**i. Update from Danielle Henson regarding budget. Commission will score event grant based on criteria.**

Danielle Henson from Gail Borden Public Library spoke to the commission regarding the "Swap This" recycling event she had proposed at the March meeting. She stated that without the Green Expo this year, the library is able to put on this event. Danielle

described the different swaps, speakers, events and organizations of which would be involved. She stated that the library plans to cross promote with Kane County, as it has its monthly recycling event the same day, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. To provide the commission with information on the library's contribution to this event, Danielle also described that the event would require four staff members from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 8 staff members from 1:00-4:00 p.m. which each member is paid roughly \$50/hour. The event will largely rely on volunteer labor, provided by the library. The independentsector.org website suggests the volunteer rate for the state of Illinois is 24.08 per hour. With that rate and number of volunteer hours, combined with staff time, the library is more than able to match the funds being requested.

- 3. Discussion on commission involvement in two sponsored events taking place on Wednesday, April 22, 2015: Elgin Community College's Sustainability Maker Faire 2015 & Hawthorne Hill Nature Center's Earth Day Celebration.**
  - i. ECC Sustainability Maker Faire 2015:** The commission reviewed the revised budget for the ECC Sustainability Maker Faire 2015, provided by Nadia Daley via email to the liaison. The commission agreed to pay invoices related to items in the "Marketing" section only, as it was consistent with the original budget presented when the commission approved its sponsorship at the previous (March) meeting. The commission stated they would not apply funds to water bottle items on the budget. Chairman Masterson, as well as Commissioners Segel and Knoerr will attend and represent the Sustainability Commission at this event. Commissioner Hernandez will be present, but unable to station the commission's tables due to prior obligations. Commissioner Segel announced that Kyla Jacobsen, city of Elgin water department director, would also be present and share a display at commission tables.
  - ii. Hawthorne Hill Nature Center's Earth Day Celebration:** Liaison updated the commission on vendors, entertainment & reusable tote bag giveaways, and the latter two of which the Commission paid for with its sponsorship. Chairman Masterson, Commissioners Segel, Knoerr and Hernandez will attend and represent the Sustainability Commission at this event. Liaison stated that she would print handout materials for the commission table at both events, as well as provide "Recycle your carton" magnets.

## **E. Working Group Reports**

## **F. Old Business**

### **1. Habitat for Humanity partnership**

Habitat for Humanity representatives had another opportunity come up and could not make it to the meeting. They will be invited to the May meeting. Commissioners Hernandez and Knoerr stopped in the facility over the last month to check out the space they have offered the commission to use.

### **2. Gail Borden Public Library partnership**

There are no updates regarding partnership at this point.

### **3. Sustainability Honor Roll**

#### **i. Update from liaison, review any new nominations from commissioners**

Award was ordered from Anderson's, and Deb Perryman was informed of her honor. No new nominations were announced.

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

1. Meeting attendee, Debbie Dudek, representing Elgin Community Solar Raisings, spoke to the commission. She discussed her interest in a community power network involving solar panel installation on homes. The goal would be to come up with a system or combination of systems to help people buy solar panels in bulk, making them more affordable. The group wishes to find ways to fund raise, reduce costs and build community. Debbie also mentioned the idea of planting fruit trees on city property and in parks. Commissioner Frazier mentioned that the city only plants native, low-maintenance trees. Elgin Community Solar Raisings consists of fifteen (15) people that meet and discuss sustainability-related ideas. Members are from Elgin and surrounding communities, and they hope to make Elgin a model community for their ideas. Commissioners informed Debbie of our current ordinances and limitations, and suggested other organizations to reach out. Commissioners also described the mission and background of the Sustainability Commission, which acts as an advisory commission.
2. Chairman Masterson asked who would be interested in taking a field trip to Freedom Field, and stated that he would look into a Saturday in the near future where this trip could be arranged.
3. Aaron Cosentino announced that over 300 gallons of gasoline have been saved with the new electric vehicle charging station in the Centre parking deck and that most people that use the station charge their vehicles for 4-5 hours.

## **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.