



Agenda

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

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

*Note: Meeting date & room differ from normal meetings

A. Call to order (chairperson)

B. Roll Call (staff liaison)

Commissioners Frazier, Hernandez, Jacobs, Knoerr, Masterson, and Segel all present.

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

The June 2015 minutes were approved.

D. Discussion Items

1. Partners for Places & Grand Victoria Foundation

Kyla Jacobsen, Water Director for the City of Elgin, will discuss community projects related to water to consider when applying for the Partners for Places grant.

Kyla explained storm sewers and separate sewers. She also mentioned the six minimum controls in management of storm water: public education and outreach, public involvement and participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site storm water runoff control, post-construction storm water management, and municipal pollution prevention. Kyla explained where the City of Elgin gets its water, primarily from the Fox River, but from 10 wells also. She said the city has a grant-writing agreement with Baxter & Woodman, which provides they will write a grant for us under the condition that if we receive the grant, they get the job. There are two grant opportunities, Partners for Places and 319 grants, which Kyla can work on with Mark Phipps from Baxter & Woodman. The community of Elgin is still growing, and it would be good to start looking into conservation efforts. It would be nice to provide an opportunity for people to get low-flow devices, or give out vouchers for such conservation products. It'd be beneficial to provide education on both water conservation and storm water management. The City of Elgin owns 124 detention ponds. The newer subdivisions have their own. What we need to do with some of our detention basins is take out the concrete channels and mowed turf grass, and install natural and native prairie plants. We have several storm water marketing materials developed by Baxter & Woodman ready to distribute electronically. Commissioners discussed ways to reach people and make education personal, so they are likely to take action. Commissioner Hernandez stated her support for applying the grant to address a water project need. It will be easy to give people something tangible to learn from just.

Commissioner Segel mentioned the added perk of saving energy, as nearly 70% of the cost of water is in the energy to move. Commissioner Knoerr asked for a report on the cost of the rain garden. A neighborhood or park rain garden project with educational signs may be an option. Commissioner Hernandez also suggested looking more at a composting project on a vacant city lot. A motion was passed for each commissioner to come up with three project ideas to go over with the commission next meeting.

2. Mighty Acorns contract renewal review

Review budget for the 2015-2016 year of Mighty Acorns programming at Hawthorne Hill Nature Center. The budget provides scenarios for expansion of the program, with potentially two additional classrooms.

Liaison described the budget presented for the Mighty Acorns contract renewal. The cost for five classrooms would still cost less than the previous year's three classrooms now that there is one less instructor to pay. There would be a small cost for supplies, as there will be more students served. The commission would pay for five classrooms, and if five classrooms are unable to participate, remaining funds will roll over into the next year. The commissioners expressed that they want to continue to support this program and its expansion. The budget was approved unanimously.

E. Old Business

1. Sustainability Honor Roll

Review any new nominations

Liaison presented her nomination for Carl Missele. The commission will vote in August, so that awardee can be notified and award ordered in time for the October meeting.

F. Commissioner comments/announcements

1. Commission survey status update

Liaison updated the commission that the survey was still being developed.

2. Commissioner Masterson provided two potential dates for a Freedom Field fieldtrip. The group decided that Saturday, July 25 would work best. The plan is to leave the Centre at 8:30 a.m. Liaison will reserve a bus.
3. Commissioner Masterson said that Wanxiang New Energy isn't likely to donate any solar panels or offer discounts. However, there is a school grant program that is worth looking into.

G. 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.