



Minutes • Tuesday, December 13, 2016 • 6:15 PM
Robert Gilliam Municipal Complex, City Hall
Second Floor South Conference Room
150 Dexter Ct., Elgin, IL 60120

A. Call to order (chairperson)

B. Roll Call (staff liaison)

Commissioners Alvarez, Fitton, Hajek, Hernandez, Keare, and Segel present.

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

November 2016 meeting minutes were approved.

D. Communications

1. Welcome new commissioner

Liaison will introduce Commissioner Jorge Alvarez

Commissioner Alvarez just began his new position with the City of Elgin as a building inspector. He has over 15 years of experience as a carpenter, went to school for HVAC, and also does home renovations outside of work with the city. He is looking to convert an old 1970s house he owns into a zero-energy home.

E. Discussion Items

1. Vehicle Fleet discussion

Discuss City's vehicle fleet and sustainable options and criteria for new purchases

The liaison explained the current "green" fleet stock and an analyst's perspective on purchasing such vehicles. There can be extra maintenance and not enough cost savings to make it worthwhile. It might be feasible to recommend all-electric vehicles for new purchases if the vehicle(s) were to use by staff that drive around frequently, like code officers. While hybrid vehicles require additional maintenance, and all-electric may require less. Liaison will look into what type of infrastructure would be needed for maintenance of such vehicles. Regarding notes from the analyst at public works, liaison would inquire if the "Ford focus cost 40% less than a green vehicle" statement included the fuel costs associated with each vehicle.

2. Co-sponsorship of documentary films showing "Bikes vs. Car" with Elgin Community Network and Elgin Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

No cost to co-sponsorship

The documentary film will be shown on Tuesday, January 17 at the Gail Borden Public Library, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The commission passed a motion to sponsor the event and help promote it.

F. Old Business

1. Partners for Places grant proposal & Community Gardens

Continued discussion on community gardens projects in Elgin & meeting grant requirements.

Liaison updated commission that she had set up a meeting with various stakeholder groups to discuss this project in more detail. She would report back at the January meeting, but it was likely the group would not be able to apply for a grant until the next round in the summer of 2017.

2. Elgin Green Groups 350 letter of support

Discuss any additional information found in commission research in letter of support for a carbon fee to address climate change and whether or not to move forward with letter

Commissioner Fitton suggested the commissioners watch an episode of “Years of Living Dangerously,” available on Amazon Prime, which talks about a carbon fee. A different episode, set to air on Wednesday, December 21, will be about the Waukegan coal plant. Commissioner Hajek suggested the need for an economical perspective on the issue, and that there is not enough information to support a letter right now. A letter of support for the climate change, however, would be worthwhile. The commission agreed to try and watch the episode Commissioner Fitton mentioned to get a better idea. A motion was passed to pursue a letter of support for climate change action. It is supportive of the mission of the sustainability plan, only on a larger scale. The chairperson, on behalf of commission, will sign the letter.

G. Commissioner comments/announcements

1. Sustainability Action Plan Update

5-year update on plan progress and current initiatives

The liaison provided the commission with a draft of the 5-year Sustainability Action Plan progress report and requested all read it, and find anything that might be missing or should be changed. In addition, when reviewing objectives listed as “Not Started,” think of which might be worth taking on in 2017. In addition, if it’s listed as “Not Started,” should it be reconsidered or is it realistic. For example, Commissioner Alvarez suggested we look into the educational signage along the river. Commissioner Hajek suggested that new castings that say, “Drains to River” are actually already required for new developments, so that would technically be “In Progress.” These insights will be important to updating the draft into a final version. The update will be provided to City Council via presentation at an early 2017 City Council meeting.

H. Adjourn

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