



Minutes • Tuesday, January 10, 2017 • 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)

Chairperson Knoerr and Commissioners Agesen, Alvarez, Fitton, Hajek, Keare, Masterson and Segel present.

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

December 2016 minutes were approved.

D. Discussion Items

E. Old Business

1. Partners for Places grant proposal & Community Gardens

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

Commissioner Fitton suggested that ECC could be a good fit to run the operation and it would be worth asking them. It could provide additional job training and enhance their culinary program. Commissioner Agesen suggested that the Food Market Institute (FMI) could provide some industry trends. Aldi is actually looking at MetroFarms as a national supplier. Liaison will work on tours.

Gotham Greens could be another option to tour. Growing Home in Chicago has a strong educational component. Perhaps City Planner Dave Waden could offer insight to planning on land. We need to inquire first if it is legal to do such this type of food production or if this scale would fall into agricultural zoning. It would be indoor, but still food production. Liaison will gather information on this project for Commissioner Alvarez and he can speak with Dave Waden.

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 Agesen said Washington had tried to pass a carbon fee legislation through their green groups and it did not pass, but there is good information on their progress. Elgin Green Groups 350 is helping make people aware of the amount of carbon going into the atmosphere. Corporations should have to think about the amount of pollution they are putting into the air. China is already working to introduce renewable energy. The commission agreed that the letter is a good cause, but the logistics behind the operation of such a fee and dividend aren't clear and the general public may not be ready. Education may need to reach more people first. Commissioner Hajek suggested tabling the letter for

carbon fee indefinitely and keep an open mind. Liaison will reach out to Sandy Kaptain to send any updates the Elgin Green Groups 350 receives on the efforts.

3. Sustainability Action Plan Update

Discuss 5-year update on plan progress and current initiatives, make any adjustments and plan focus for 2017

Chairperson Knoerr suggested garden ordinances do not exist and its important we get that worked into our municipal code this year. People should be able to plant a garden in their front yard. Commissioner Alvarez said the zoning ordinance has a permitted use. An amendment would be needed to allow for such.

Commissioner Aagesen suggested opening up the question on Facebook asking for public recommendations on what needs to be adjusted in our code to allow for more sustainable practices at the home and community level. "For example, there's been several issues discussed by the commission over the past few years...bees, gardens, plastic bag ordinances. What would you like to see happen?" The commission will continue to review progress report and make recommendations.

F. Commissioner comments/announcements

- 1. "Bikes vs. Cars" film showing reminder**
- 2. Sustainability Honor Roll votes in February**

G. Adjourn

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