



Minutes • Tuesday, February 14, 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, Hernandez, Keare, Masterson and Segel are present.

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

January 2017 meeting minutes were approved.

D. Discussion Items

No new discussion items.

E. Old Business

1. Partners for Places grant proposal & Community Gardens

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

Liaison will contact city clerk as whether it would violate OMA to have commission tour Metro Farms. There seems to be a grey area of whether it's considered commission business where it's research. Liaison updated the commission that the AID property zoned as Community Facility permitted use, and it would be easier to find a property with industrial zoning for such a project. Freight Farms comes and rehabs shipping containers. Growing Healthy People non-profit could be a good contact for the operations of such a urban farm/greenhouse. Commissioner Fitton will contact them and see if they could help, would be interested in expanding or at minimum provide a good model.

2. Sustainability Action Plan Update

Discuss progress report, make recommendations for future planning and select objectives to achieve in 2017 in addition to current initiatives

Commissioner Fitton suggested we look at requiring new construction to incorporate sustainable building practices like requiring builders to run conduit for solar or EV charges. It's expensive to put in after construction. In planning for subdivisions, the planning should include bioswales in the curb cuts and rain garden plantings in medians. Commissioner Hajek said the stormwater ordinance handles it in masses, by stormwater draining to detention basins.

For 2017, some viable accomplishments can include amending ordinances to allow gardens to grow in any part of one's yard and requiring all multi-family units to provide recycling. Chairperson Knoerr suggested walking signals don't automatically turn on with green traffic signals downtown, which is not pedestrian-friendly. Liaison suggested this issue may

be part of Complete Streets Plan and this concern will be passed along to the Elgin Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Another idea was to create a Native Plant certification program where homes could be flagged on Salesforce. This way, when code officers go around, they will know if a home has been certified to grow native plants in their yard, and thus not ticket for “weeds too tall.”

Commissioner Hajek found most of the objectives that were not completed or started had one of three obstacles: Ordinances, lack of funding or lack of education. Agriculture, for example, is driven by an ordinance change. Temporary agriculture could be modeled after the church by Woodbridge and Randall, with Troggs Hollow CSA farms. By the next meeting, commissioners should break up objectives by obstacle. Then the group can look at just those hindered by ordinances. If needed, the commission can break up into groups after that. Sol-smart is a free program, which was also mentioned. Communities can qualify and be certified, and then be provided technical support to encourage more solar throughout the community. This program may be worthwhile to pursue.

F. Commissioner comments/announcements

- 1. Vote for Sustainability Honor Roll winner to be recognized at April meeting**
- 2. Commission agreed to sponsor FVSN Lunch and Learn.**

The commission agreed to support the event in an amount not exceed \$500. Liaison will check with city attorney if this would require any special notices in consideration of the open meetings act.

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.