



Minutes • Tuesday, June 5, 2018 • 6:00 p.m.
Robert Gilliam Municipal Complex, City Hall
First Floor South Conference Room
150 Dexter Court, Elgin, IL 60120

A. Call to order (chairperson)

B. Roll Call (staff liaison)

Chairperson Aagesen and Commissioners Anderson and Miko present.

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

May meeting minutes were approved.

D. Other persons present

Robin Migalla announced that she had reduced her Terra Cycle box by one-third by taking advantage of the Subaru program that collects and recycles all types of the plastic bags. Subaru informed her that the plastic would become a park bench for the Friends of the Fox River.

E. Working Groups and Task-Related updates

Discuss goals related to Individual Commissioner Engagement Plan

-Chairperson Aagesen began researching straw bans, and she found a website with strategies and tools for restaurants that are looking to go straw free. They take a pledge and either 1) don't hand them out without being asked, 2) move to a reusable straw, or 3) move to a paper or non-plastic straw. Liaison will try to gather a list of restaurant and beverage establishments. Liaison will look for historical research and survey on multi-family recycling as well.

-Commissioner Anderson contacted presenters for tonight's solar themed-meeting. Anderson has started work on a content calendar for the commission Facebook page. He wants to align each month of the year with an area from the sustainability plan. He wants to also have PSAs, tips and tricks, etc. Anderson also wants to bring people back to remember the working groups through a campaign with the hope to energize people to get involved again.

-Commissioner Miko touched base with Gary Swick from Friends of the Fox and plans to engage with the organization more. He also wants to play a support role on solar and recycling initiatives. He also has a contact at the USEPA in Chicago who has provided good and current information on the recycling industry.

F. Discussion Items

1. Presentation: Overview of Upcoming Solar Opportunities in Illinois

Presentation by Alex Farkes and Sarah Wochos of Borrego Solar Systems, Inc.

Sarah Wochos provided a presentation discussing the developments in utility scale solar and community solar as well as timelines for incentives. Utility scale solar is with one purchaser of the energy (not behind someone's meter). The energy produced is expected to more than double by 2021. Community solar and utility scale solar are typically built on agricultural land. There's not a big opportunity for utility scale for residential or municipal. She suggested it's important to first decide what goals are as a community. Community, also expected to grow, and rooftop solar are built on incentives. Do we want to make sure residential and businesses can subscribe to solar? You cannot guarantee it would just be Elgin subscribers. A minimum of 10 acres is needed for a community solar project, and it should be close to an infrastructure substation otherwise it is very

expensive. If Elgin doesn't wish to have a community solar project, it could still help residents get access to subscriptions. A subscription is purchasing energy and getting credit on your bill. Credit must be higher than what you pay for it. Unlike rooftop solar, community solar subscriptions are often portable/transferable if you move. The incentives decline overtime. Each 2MW (2000KW) system has about 200 subscribers.

2. Presentation: Community Solar

Presentation by George Hahn, George Hahn, Economic Development Director for Lake in the Hills
Lake in the Hills (LITH) formed a green committee. There was an extensive article in the Wall Street Journal about how the solar industry is exploding. The village's project will use some power to run well pumps (behind the meter). A manufacturing company is another energy user for the project, as well as a group of homes. Hahn suggested that installers love airports, as they always set aside too much land. The manufacturer and village will pay less for power. The permitting process was easy because the LITH board was bought in. It was more difficult to get approval from the. Solar panels absorb the sunlight, not reflect. LITH had very positive feedback from the community. They are already thinking of doing two more projects due to the number of industrial businesses interested. Ground mounted solar is much less expensive than rooftop for large projects like this.

3. Presentation: Solar Education, Advocacy and FEJA

Peter Gorr, a volunteer and past board member for the Illinois Solar Energy Association (ISEA), has been part of the Solar Ambassador Program. He's converted two homes to solar. He suggested Elgin can be active in promoting and educating, as well as facilitating group purchases. You don't need to have a 10-acre field, just a roof oriented the right way. FEJA is an incredible act that will help move Illinois forward as an energy leader. ISEA promotes industry and technology. Most industry businesses are members. They do education for building inspectors. Ambassadors network and tell their story to help people learn just how to get solar. This is done through events like the solar tours and solar social. There are three legs to FEJA: 1) Energy Efficiency (audit to know your energy needs, you can sell excess energy on the grid, don't oversize), 2) renewable portfolio, and 3) investing in job training and assist low income communities through "Solar for all." Gorr said it's important to get the message to the community that the available incentives will eventually expire. The incentives drop down after 2019. Gorr is available to give presentations to groups and record videos for websites as needed. He suggested it's about an eight-year payback. Elgin should look into becoming an EPA Green Power Community.

Liaison provided an update regarding the SolSmart application with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC). Liaison will contact Edith Makra with MMC and see if a representative can provide a presentation at a future meeting. Commissioner Anderson motioned to create a solar working group that consists of one commissioner and at least six community members. The motion passed. Anderson would be the commission member on that solar working group.

4. Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations Monitoring Technology

Determine whether or not to fund installation of technology on charging stations if charging station initiative moves forward.

Steve Mederis from Kaptial Electric provided that typically 3-4 EV charging stations are need in a community for every 1000 electric vehicles. Chairperson Agesen suggested that stations would not just be for residents, but rather to draw visitors. Commissioner Anderson said the group needs to determine how many of the charging stations should be provided the monitoring technology. Without good data, Anderson suggested phasing the installation of monitoring technology at the eight locations out over three years. Commissioner Miko motioned to fund the monitoring technology in a tiered approach, with three locations funded this year, three in 2019, and two in 2020. The motion passed.

G. Old Business

1. Commission Recruitment

Update from liaison.

The liaison updated the group on the memo status for recruiting at various commissions. The liaison will ask Gail Cohen if the HRC is going to be helping other commissions in regards to recruitment.

2. Sustainability Survey

Update from liaison.

Liaison will send survey out through various City channels. Liaison will also create a redirect on the website that is print friendly.

3. EnergySage

Make determination whether or not to move forward with campaign/partnership.

Anderson motioned to table this item until a solar working group is created. The motion passed.

4. Earth Day 2018 Sponsorship

Review event wrap up report and discuss future sponsorship/event enhancements.

Liaison went through the Earth Day wrapup report with the commission. With public education being a part of Anderson's work plan, he motioned to create an Earth Day planning committee. The committee would be comprised of one commissioner and no less than six community volunteers and staff members. The committee would plan and organize Earth Day activities and identify help from financial sponsors. The motion passed. Anderson will chair that committee. Liaison will add historical Earth Day documents to commission shared folder.

5. Budget Update

Review detailed budget and appoint treasurer.

Commissioner Miko was appointed as treasurer. Tonight's meeting would focus on the process and where the budget is at for 2018. The group can plan to make adjustments to the draft 2019 budget, beginning at the next meeting. Internal budget considerations can be sent to Miko and the liaison. Outside requests can use a website form.

Miko motioned to amend the previous motion from Discussion Item 4 (EV Charging Station Monitoring Technology) to include that the phased approach is for the Tier 2 model or monitoring station at the locations. The motion passed.

H. Commissioner comments/announcements

I. 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.