



Minutes • Tuesday, August 14, 2018 • 6:00 p.m.  
Robert Gilliam Municipal Complex, City Hall  
Second Floor South Conference Room  
150 Dexter Court, Elgin, IL 60120

**A. Call to order (chairperson)**

**B. Roll Call (staff liaison)**

Chairperson Agesen and Commissioners Anderson, Corie, Kroiss, Miko, and Reiter present.

**C. Welcome and introduction of new commissioners**

The three newly appointed commissioners introduced themselves.

**D. Approval of previous meeting's minutes**

The July 10 minutes were approved. Liaison will report back as to why the City didn't just adopt the 2018 IRC in July. The July 27 special meeting minutes were approved pending a sentence change recommended by Commissioner Anderson.

**E. Other persons present**

Those present introduced themselves.

**F. Working Groups and Task-Related updates**

***Discuss goals related to Individual Commissioner Engagement Plan***

-Commissioner Anderson applied for a \$5000 grant through the Aldi Smart Kids program, and he has received confirmation of \$2,500. Chairperson Agesen was not a determining factor for the acceptance of this grant. The fiscal agent used was the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin, and the application provided a bundling of three programs – Mighty Acorns, Earth Day, and the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin community garden. Anderson will meet soon to follow up. He also applied for a \$25,000 grant competition to support the same programs through the same fiscal agent, and should know whether or not it has moved on to the next round shortly. Anderson has exchanged emails with Parks and Recreation administration and is prepared to engage the Parks and Recreation Foundation Board regarding a partnership, creating restricted funds that are supported by commission fundraisers. He will also be meeting with Maria Cumpata to discuss potential solar opportunities at the sports complex. Anderson is attending the Elgin Green Groups meeting on August 20 to discuss the commission and action plan. Anderson announced that Elgin was accepted into the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus SolSmart program cohort. He is actively trying to organize the first solar work group meeting. He is also meeting at The Conservation Foundation to discuss Mighty Acorns funding.

-Commissioner Miko is participating in the solar working group. Miko would also like to create and lead a water working group.

-Commissioner Agesen met with Vaughn from Waste Management. DeKalb has begun banning plastic bags and providing reusable bag hubs. Single use plastic is something that is plaguing Waste Management, and the industry, and they can provide resources if its something we can help in terms of education. There's also a WM Think Green Grant, which can be applied to a particular project. In regards to the straw project, a one-page plan was created. This initiative may warrant a waste working group. Liaison will add this working group idea, as well as Miko's water group, as a discussion to the agenda next month.

## G. Discussion Items

### 1. Commissioner Recruitment and Ordinance

#### ***Consultant Denise Barreto of Relationships Matter Now present to provide insight***

Ms. Barreto introduced herself and her work with the City. She suggested when creating working groups and subcommittees, the commission make sure people are aware that those new groups exist. She suggested looking for busy people that get things done and perhaps are already coming to meetings. Reach out to the Human Relations Commission to help with recruitment of a diverse group as it relates to age, race, and abilities. She suggested that citizens who call in to complain are the people you need to ask to participate. There may be people without the degrees but the interest and willingness to serve, and they should also be targeted.

Commissioner Anderson questioned if the ordinance calling for people of a broad background is inclusive? Barreto suggested it be rewritten, as people of a broad background are “preferred.” Anderson suggested it says “expertise or interest.” Commissioner Corie suggested the group find ambassadors and people for communities within the community. Commissioner Reiter suggested the “expertise” is intimidating, and it’s best to meet people where they are at. The liaison asked for commission feedback via email as soon as possible, so it can be compiled and communicated to City Council. Commissioner Anderson will distribute raw feedback on the exercise from earlier in the year regarding the commission ordinance.

### 2. Presentation: Friends of the Fox

#### ***Presentation by Gary Swick***

Mr. Swick provided a background on the development of Friends of the Fox River (FOFR), which began in Elgin in the early 1990s when a citizen realized there was no voice for the river. The organization still operates around advocacy and water quality. The organization operates watershed-wide. The former service agreement provides for educating students in the stream, which is the most powerful vehicle to engage and connect students. The organization survived off grants for a while, but had to keep reinventing the programs. The FOFR needed some sustainable funding, and came up with a concept to help municipalities maintain educational component needed for MS4 permits. When the City reports to the IEPA, education and public engagement is a requirement, and FOFR fills that role. FOFR does not charge schools for education and does not employ any full time educators. FOTF will do so, however, if the financial resources are secured. The program here in Elgin has served as a model, which was replicated in Aurora and a couple other communities. Commissioner Miko inquired if events like “Love Our River Days” could help provide a recurring source of funding. FOFR is not concerned where funding comes from, but more importantly that it can be sustained to continue operations, and ideally grow them.

Commissioner Anderson offered to donate his time to helping FOFR develop recurring revenue streams. Chairperson Agesen summarized that the commission supports the service FOFR offers, and the impact is anecdotal and difficult to quantify. The commission is supportive of assisting FOFR with developing funding ideas and better understanding what the organization’s funding supports. Anderson noted that the participation numbers are duplicated on the spreadsheets. It shows numbers per session, but not individuals educated.

### 3. Budget Discussion

#### ***Wrap up budget discussion for Fiscal Year 2019.***

All of 2018 funds will be spent, as \$10,000 will be secured for a keynote speaker (fee plus travel/accommodations) for 2019 Earth Day. Commissioner Miko motioned for liaison to move forward with 2018 projections and next meeting the commission will iron out details, encumbered funds, etc. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson will contact the speaker’s representative and get them scheduled to dial in for our next meeting in September. It will be on the next agenda. All should review the budget resolution.

#### **4. Sustainability Honor Roll**

##### ***Select next recipient for October award and City Council meeting date for presentation.***

Commissioner Reiter abstained, as she had not yet had the opportunity to read the nominations. State Representative Anna Moeller received the most votes for first place choice, with Elgin Public House as second and Pat Hill as the third.

#### **5. Events**

##### ***Discuss Elgin Sustainability Awards evolution, Earth Day, Pumpkin Composting, and any other pending events.***

Tia will compile a list of events the City puts on that the commission can have a presence. The group can look into the “Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful” clear recycling bag containers for events.

#### **H. Old Business**

##### **1. Sustainability Survey**

###### ***Update from liaison.***

The survey has over 250 responses and will remain open through at least the end of August.

#### **I. Commissioner comments/announcements**

#### **J. 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.