



Minutes • Tuesday, October 9, 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 Aagesen and Commissioners Corie, Kroiss, and Miko were all present.

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

September 2018 minutes were approved.

D. Other persons present

E. Working Groups and Task-Related updates

Provide updates and discuss goals related to Individual Commissioner Engagement Plans.

-Chairperson Aagesen will be meeting with the liaison to discuss straw initiative.

-Commissioner Kroiss will be distributing pumpkin flyers. Kroiss has also been researching different mediums for asset management and plans to meet with Dan Rich in the coming weeks.

-Commissioner Corie and the liaison will meet to discuss aggregation and other energy initiatives the City is considering to make sure all concerns and input are understood.

-Commissioner Miko has been recruiting for the water working group, including community members and staff members. Miko hopes to have the first meeting in the next month or so. He put together a list of about 20 water issues mentioned in the Comprehensive Plan.

-Commissioner Anderson sent out minutes from the first Solar Work Group meeting. The group still needs to do more recruitment. The liaison will provide additional clarification on OMA with working groups vs. event committees.

F. Discussion Items

1. Meeting Procedures

Revisit and discuss adoption of meeting procedure changes proposed in 2017.

The commission reviewed the proposed changes that address meeting format, speaking time, roles, etc. Chairperson Aagesen motioned that at the next meeting, we adopt the procedure changes and adhere to them following. The motion passed.

2. Ordinance Amendments Addressing Urban Farming/Gardening and Native Plants

Discuss proposal to amend City ordinances to address and allow for front yard/side yard/parkway gardening as well as address native plants so to not be considered weeds.

The liaison and Kiko Mari, another staff member from the City Manager's Office, provided an overview of the topic and how it came to be. Aagesen asked about any local cities and ordinances. Mari provided that Chicago and Northbrook are the two closest cities that address urban gardening in their ordinances that he found. Commissioner Miko motioned to have staff proceed with the process and move this forward to City Council. The motion passed. Liaison will work to draft ordinance and send it to the commission for additional feedback prior to bringing it to council.

3. Commission Roles

Discuss creation of secretary position to take detailed minutes and circulate to commissioners within one week of meetings. Also discuss creation of a volunteer ambassador role to oversee recruitment strategies for various committees and work groups.

Chairperson Aagesen suggested Commissioner Anderson might be interested. Commissioner Kroiss said he could take on the role if Anderson is not. The commission will bring up the idea of a volunteer ambassador when additional commissioners are recruited.

G. Old Business

1. Sustainability Survey

Determine next steps based on review of responses.

Chairperson Aagesen explained the summary of responses she compiled.

2. Budget Discussion

Discuss adoption of latest version of budget resolutions.

Commissioner Miko found the provision to be limiting and redundant from the principles. He suggested policies should be more about the actions we take, where principles guide our decisions. He suggested the one-year project is very limiting and not realistic. Commissioner Corie suggested providing a statement of intent in providing funding for one year. Commissioner Kroiss suggested the one-year limitation might be there as the commission is not guaranteed funding. Commissioner Miko will draft a new statement that suggests we are limited to funding one year at a time, and that certain criteria is taken into consideration. The item was tabled for a vote until the November meeting.

3. Commissioner Recruitment and Ordinance

Review feedback form created by Chair and related materials. Provide suggestions for application questions.

The commission reviewed the compiled feedback and agreed on responses for the feedback form.

4. Events

Discuss 2018 Pumpkin Composting Event details and marketing, and discuss any updates related to the Sustainability Brunch for 2019.

Chairperson Aagesen reached out to Shared Harvest, who is interested in being involved with the pumpkin composting event. Liaison will reach out to Deb Perryman for any student volunteers for the pumpkin composting event.

H. Commissioner comments/announcements

-Sustainability Honor Roll award presentation October 10 7:00 p.m. City Council meeting.

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.