



Minutes • Tuesday, March 12, 2019 • 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, Armstrong, Biss, Cuevas, Kenney, Kessuvan, Kroiss, McMullen (Perryman) and Miko are present.

C. Communications – Welcome new commissioners

- Commissioner Kessuvan is part of conservation club at St. Edwards High School, and found out about the student representative position through Facebook.
- Commissioner Kenney is a student at UIC, working on a Masters in Urban Planning, with concentrations on Community Development and Environmental Planning. She is interested in the political process.
- Commissioner Armstrong is a retired City planner, an volunteers in many capacities in Elgin. He co-chaired the land use working group when the sustainability action plan was developed.
- Commissioner Cuevas has lived in Elgin all this life, sees a lot of potential and wants to grow with Elgin.
- Commissioner Biss wants to make a difference in sustainability, starting at the local level.

D. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

January 2019 special meeting minutes were approved.
February 2019 regular meeting minutes were approved.

E. Public Comment

Attendees included Ryan Peterson (Kane County), Ellen, Mary Alice, John Zwada, Robin Migalla and Dave Segel.

F. Working Groups and Task-Related updates

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

- Commissioner Armstrong provided his draft individual engagement plan. He is leading the Transportation and Mobility Work Group. He'd like the City to adopt and implement a Complete Streets Policy. The former Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) had drafted one, and he'd like to revisit it. The Bicycle Master Plan is 10 years old and is in need of revision and updating as well. Armstrong has targeted four goals in the sustainability action plan he'd like to focus on. Commissioner Anderson offered help in drafting a volunteer description for the new work group.
- Commissioner Miko provided an update that the Water Working Group had their second meeting and have made progress on narrowing down the focus of the group. One focus is education and the group wants to connect more with School District U-46. Another focus would be storm water management, particularly Poplar Creek. A third focus is drinking water.
- Commissioner Kroiss is looking at what asset layers to build out, such as community gardens, resident gardens, solar installations, etc.
- Commissioner Perryman found two new members for the Water Working Group. July 16 is the date of the third Solarize Chicagoland Solar Power Hour at the U-46 Administration Building in Elgin. She

requested Commissioner Miko help design a performance assessment to evaluate second graders' designs to resolve erosion issues.

-Chairperson Aagesen met with Councilwoman Powell and had a discussion with Councilman Dixon regarding the waste contract expiration. She also met with Jen Fukala who will partner to get information out to downtown businesses on her straw initiative. She's looking at other neighboring community's waste and recycling contracts that include ride along programs and pay as you throw. She was also connected to someone know as the Trash Czar. She plans to schedule a first Waste Work Group meeting in April. Liaison updated that staff is forming their internal group to review the contract. Liaison will send Chair the current Waste Management contract.

-Commissioner Anderson announced that over 20 events are planned for Elgin Earth Month. The committee meets Thursday and may meet again in April to celebrate the work of the volunteers. He will update the commission on that April meeting and requests they attend to provide additional volunteer appreciation. Next year is the worldwide 50th anniversary of Earth Day, so Anderson is looking for a bigger planning committee to execute bigger ideas. The Solar Work Group is coming to a pause as it's SolSmart designation is close to achievement. Some volunteers will leave and other will join mid-year. He will look to track goals and metrics with a solar campaign scorecard. Anderson will connect with Armstrong in regards to Elgin Community Network (ECN) involvement in both an Earth Day 50 year celebration and the Solar for All program.

G. Discussion Items

1. Rain Barrel Giveaway

Consider approval of funding request to purchase rain barrels (3/week) throughout April to give away in support of award event ticket sales and align with Earth Month efforts.

Anderson described the funding request as submitted via the online form. Miko motioned to fund the rain barrel purchase and giveaway request. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Sustainability Award Event

Discuss event details and assign tasks to commissioners.

A "Save the Date" for the event has been posted to the commission Facebook page and will be shared throughout the month. Invitations will go shortly after mailed "Save the Dates." For the award, Chairperson Aagesen suggested a tree planting ceremony on city-owned property, but the award winner could select the type of tree out of a list of appropriate species. Liaison can work on Eventbrite page and have the event live by March 22. The group agreed that the student representative member of the commission would receive a free ticket to the event. ECC sent the liaison an updated Banquet Event Order (BEO) was sent today. Commissioner Anderson stressed that commissioners will need to individually help push invitations to encourage participation and ticket sales.

3. Elgin Earth Month

Discuss events and assign tasks to commissioners.

Commissioner Anderson provided a checklist of ways commission members can help with Elgin Earth Month events and promotion. He provided an update that 451 tickets have been claimed for the Xiuhtezcatl Martinez event (capacity is 1200) and 21 have been claimed for the "Normal is Over" screening (capacity about 100).

4. Elgin Farmers Market

Consider sponsorship and commission involvement.

Commissioner Anderson's funding request was to sponsor the Elgin Farmers Market with the "Silver package," for \$1000, providing the commission a table at 10 events. This would help provide opportunities to promote the Solarize Chicagoland program and general solar education (EnergySage, Solar for All, etc). It would also be an opportunity for different work groups to engage new volunteers and educate the public on initiatives/projects. Having a table at the events also

supports goals in at least four different areas of the Sustainability Action Plan. A motion was made to fund the request and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Sustainability Action Plan

Discuss planning models and timelines for updating the plan.

Commissioner Anderson provided copies of his presentation that he gave to the commission at the special meeting in January. He provided a brief overview to new members and directed them to more information on the sustainability webpages of the City's website to review the current plan, the progress report and more.

H. Old Business

1. Community Garden at City-owned Channing/Division Property

Hear update regarding community gardening and discuss any ways to help participate.

At the February 27 city council meeting, the liaison provided city council an overview of the garden project and how it came to fruition. Council agreed to file an application to amend the zoning of the former Channing YMCA site to allow for community gardens. The application will go to the Planning and Zoning Commission in April and then back to City Council for final approval.

2. Solar Group Buy

Discuss opportunities to promote program.

Commissioner Anderson gave a summary of the Solarize group buy program and its expansion from Kane County to Chicagoland, now including additional counties. The City of Elgin has agreed to help promote the program as a sponsor. For 2019, this Solarize Chicagoland initiative is a major cornerstone to ramp up solar in Elgin. The website just went live: solarizechicagoland.com. Public education is a major portion of getting people interested in solar. This will be achieved through Solar Power Hours. Three are scheduled for Elgin: April 22 at Elgin Township Supervisors Office; June 8 at the Gail Borden Public Library; July 16 at the U-46 Administrative Office Building.

I. Commissioner comments/announcements

Commissioner Kroiss announced that a bill might be passed that would overrule home rule community ordinances and allow for greenhouses or other year-round gardening structures on properties. Kroiss will distribute information to the commission.

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.