



Minutes • Tuesday, April 9, 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 Aagesen and Commissioners Armstrong, Biss, Cuevas, Kenney, Kessuvan, McMullen (Perryman) and Miko are present.

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

The March 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

D. Public Comment

Residents Dan Brosier and Robin Migalla were present.

E. Working Groups and Task-Related updates

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

-Chairperson Aagesen sent a memo to the Downtown Neighborhood Association of Elgin (DNA) for a straw campaign early last week. McMullen connected Aagesen with a teacher at Larsen Middle School that has sustainability work groups. She will talk to them about their strategy in rolling out a student-level campaign. They are also interested in a river clean up day and would plan to publicize the plastics they find. They plan to tackle this initiative in late April/early May. Liaison will set up a meeting with Chairperson Aagesen to discuss the solid waste contract. Aagesen also provided updates for Commissioner Anderson due to his absence. 750 tickets have been claimed for the Xiuhtezcatl Martinez event and there are 450 to go. Liaison will print more posters for Commissioner Kessuvan.

-Commissioner Miko had to postpone the April Water Work Group meeting due to a scheduling conflict and will meet again in May. He had some discussions about the Poplar Creek Watershed with a representative at the Metro Water Reclamation District (MWRD). If there's a project the community wants to get behind, he recommended putting a proposal in writing and then petitioning MWRD.

-Commissioner Armstrong has recruited four or five people to join the Transportation and Mobility Work Group. He wants to dust off the Complete Streets Policy developed in 2017 and update it with new guidance from the National Complete Streets Coalition. He will bring it to this group. In the new comprehensive plan, one objective is to adopt a complete streets policy. Armstrong also attended the Fox Valley Sustainability Network (FVSN) Green Infrastructure forum. He's also interested in that area of sustainability and the opportunities available, such as planting more oak and hickory throughout the city.

F. Discussion Items

1. Rain Barrel Giveaway

Discuss logistics for giveaway.

Liaison will order 15 rain barrels to have shipped to the Edward Schock Centre of Elgin. Five will be given away per week leading up to the event. Liaison will create a graphic for giveaway and start sharing.

2. Sustainability Award Event

Discuss event details and assign tasks to commissioners.

Dustin Good will be the event emcee. The invitation has been finalized as well as an information sheet for 311 to use for any inquiries. Agesen is working with Commissioner Cuevas' artist friend to upcycle items for the physical awards. The Eventbrite page is being finalized. Kendra Kroiss is working on finalizing table centerpieces. The committee is creating a slideshow to run during the event with recaps of nominees and other information. The slideshow can also promote work groups and recruitment opportunities. Agesen is creating a punch list of volunteer needs and will reach out once that's finalized.

3. Elgin Earth Month

Assign any tasks to commissioners and provide update ticket sales.

Agesen asked that if anyone is around for the April 17 event; extra hands are needed to help with anything. Monell suggested some National Honor Society Clubs are happy to help with events, like providing directions, door ushers, handing out programs, etc. and she can reach out to them. Agesen will send a volunteer signup link for Xiuhtezcatl Martinez event, the awards event and the Hawthorne Hill event.

4. Elgin Farmers Market

Discuss commission involvement and availability as well as promotions.

Armstrong suggested each week of the market will have a theme. Agesen will check in with Anderson regarding dates and how to recruit and plan for promotions.

5. Sustainability Action Plan

Discuss planning models and timelines for updating the plan.

The commission was asked "Do we start over with a new plan? If we do, how?" Commissioner Biss motioned the commission begin the process to create a new action plan. Miko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Liaison will send Commissioner Biss Waste Management presentations related to recycling contamination reduction. Miko requested more specifics on how commissioners can come prepared for plan discussions. Each work group could go through the plan and see what could be kept or adjusted. Kenney suggested the commission start by looking at overall goals and vision. The group agreed to review documents including the Greenest Region Compact 2, the Comprehensive and 2018-2022 Strategic Principles and Priorities. Agesen will reach out to Anderson for any additional "homework" ideas. Miko will find complete GRC2 document and share with the group.

G. Old Business

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

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

Liaison updated the commission that the item went to the Planning and Zoning Commission and passed unanimously. Next, the zoning amendment will go the City Council on April 24 for final approval. Following that, a lease agreement will be arranged.

H. Commissioner comments/announcements

I. Adjourn