



Elgin Sustainability Commission Meeting
Agenda • Thursday, November 21 • 6:00 p.m.
Edward Schock Centre of Elgin
Second Floor Administration Conference Room
100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

A. Call to order (chairperson)

B. Roll call (staff liaison)

Chairperson Aagesen, Commissioners Anderson, Armstrong, Biss, Flaherty and Kessuvan.

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

October 17th meeting minutes approved.

D. Public Comment

E. Presentation

Commissioner Armstrong gave presentation on Transportation & Mobility Work Group Goals for 2020. Goal 1: Provide a balanced transportation network that accommodates the safe and efficient circulation of vehicles, bicycles and other personal mobility devices, pedestrians, and transit throughout Elgin. Goal 2: Expand the availability, quality and use of transit throughout Elgin, and improve regional connections as both a critical public service and a local economic asset. He explained and listed 8 strategies that will help achieve those goals. Adopt and implement a complete streets policy; Update 2008 Bikeway Master Plan; Install downtown bike racks; Establish local/regional bike share; Achieve Bike/Walk Friendly Community recognition; Work with Pace Bus to optimize commuter bus route operations; Safe Routes to Schools and Parks; Bikeway network wayfinding and Fill gaps in sidewalk network.

Commissioner Armstrong gave presentation on Green Infrastructure Work Group Goals for 2020. Goal 1: Educate the community regarding the ecosystem services that flow from nature to people. These include food supply, clean air and water, water and climate regulation, nutrient cycling, pollination, formation of fertile soils, recreational opportunities, and improved physical and mental health. Goal 2: Protect, restore, create, and enhance the network of green (land) and blue (water) spaces to improve ecological conditions and therefore the health and quality of life for Elgin's citizens. He explained and listed 6 strategies that would assist to achieve those goals. Categorize and map the network of green infrastructure (land and water); Sustain a robust urban tree canopy; Elgin Oak Recovery Project; Promote the use of native and sustainable landscaping practices; Create and maintain beautiful landscapes and streetscapes to enhance gateways, neighborhoods, and important public spaces; Encourage the planting and registering of pollinator gardens. Commissioner Armstrong commented on Commissioner Kenney is going to work on the Green Infrastructure Work Group. Commissioner Flaherty commented that he is interested in working with this work group as well.

Commissioner Aagesen and Biss gave a presentation on Plastic Bag Ordinance Proposal. The Waste Work Group has been doing research into plastic bag ordinance after attending the FVSN plastic forum in September is proposing that the commission recommend to council implementing a plastic bag usage tax vs. a ban. Research has shown that a ban would be less effective in changing people's behavior habits. The State of Illinois has a plastic bag tax Bill SB1240 in committee that if approved would impose a 7 cent tax on each checkout bag used by a retail establishment. Of the key concerns in this state bill is that if approved it would over-ride any municipalities who have a plastic bag tax enacted before Feb. 1, 2018. Oak Park was given an example of successfully passing such a bill with 80% reduction in use. Waste work group is moving to support the pursuit of recommending an ordinance tax. The work group is recommending that city staff pursue the development of an ordinance to city council that would impose a fee on the use of plastic bags at the retail point-of-sale level, with some portion going to the retailer and some portion going to the commission. Commissioner Anderson wanted to point out that this was listed not listed as a discussion item and

the commission would not be voting on it. He also had several questions that would need to be answered before he felt comfortable in approving a recommendation. Commissioner Anderson asked if the work group had reached out to retailers to find out what their feelings were, has any focus groups been done in the community and has any thought been given to collaborating with an outside group. Commissioner Aagesen they haven't done any of that yet and some of that could be conducted by city staff. Commissioner Armstrong commented that council would probably want to see focus groups, and retailer feedback performed before going to council. Commissioner Flaherty brought up that FVSN has a media toolkit available to use. Commissioner Biss is planning on contacting Anna Moeller and Cristina Castro to get their feedback on how probable is this bill going to pass in Springfield and report back to commission at the December meeting.

F. Work Group Update

Earth Month-Commissioner Aagesen informed the commission that the next Earth Month meeting is in January. Commissioner Armstrong said that the Strong Towns event has decided upon April 4 or 5 as possible dates for the speaker. Commissioner Anderson mentioned that work still needs to be done on completing the prospect list for Earth Month by filling in information. Also Earth Month is working on logo designs and volunteers are still needed for the sponsorship committee. Commissioner Biss reported on the 50/50 committee has lots of ideas but nothing has been solidified as of yet. The committee will be finalizing ideas within the next month. Commissioner Flaherty offered assistance in helping with organizing with an event or program.

Green Expo-Commissioner Aagesen reported that the Green Expo got a vendor list from other Expos and plan on tapping into it the next month. There will be brainstorming vendor ideas in December, one idea is to have a possible city council panel. Looking into reaching out to League of Women voters to help facilitate the panel. Commissioner Anderson offered a suggestion to contact Rich Jacobs.

Youth Group- Commissioner Kessuvan reported that the Community Garden Project is complete. Commissioner Aagesen offered to help her to reach out to teachers at other High Schools to get more involvement for Guardians of the Environment.

Solar- Need 4 volunteers and Kiko to form 2 teams, one is Solar for All and the other EnergySage. The teams would then focus on working on those 2 areas. They are still staffing a table at the farmers market next summer and the Facebook page ad at a \$1 a day is ongoing. Next meeting is Dec. 19th at 9am.

Future Search- Commissioner Anderson asked what was happening with Rise' and the spreadsheet of prospects with Laura and Byron. He asked if a Commissioner Kenney was forming a work group. Commissioner Anderson asked if staff liaison could look into asking legal if having a spreadsheet that could be shared live in Box would be an OMA violation.

G. Old Business

FCC Grant Proposal Update- Staff Liaison Monell informed commission that the FCC Grant agreement was still under legal review and that as of right now it wouldn't be going to council unless the agreement was completed. Liaison recommended that the commission consider pulling the memo due to the lengthy legal review process and proceed with developing a grant program that would be vetted through legal. The Commission could then develop a grant program with criteria and application process and with defined scorecard. FCC could reapply again under the established grant program. Finance will allow the carrying over of the \$10,000 that was allocated for the FCC Grant in 2019 into 2020 to allow the commission to use it for the grant program. Or the commission can proceed with submitting the recommendation to council and hope that it will be approved. Commissioner Anderson wanted to staff to look into whether a grant program was put into place in 2011 when former commissioner Todd Martin had submitted criteria. Was said criteria ever sent to legal or approved. He also commented that at a past board meeting with Aaron and Molly they were told that the commission could spend the funds as they saw fit and he had questions on the budget process. Commissioner Armstrong remembered that the commission had a scorecard of some type and wondered what happened to that. He also commented that if the religious aspect was a major concern into getting approval why go through this process again to have it fail. Commissioner Anderson had to recuse himself from further discussion because of conflict-of-interest and left the meeting. Commissioner Anderson leaving meant the commission lost a quorum and could not make a recommendation as to how to proceed next. Further discussion and action about the FCC Grant proposal and funding for 2019 were tabled until next meeting on December 10th. Chairperson Aagesen asked that commissioners bring a list of possible items that could be purchased using \$10,000 2019 funds. Staff would confirm in more detail budget options by next meeting.

H. Commissioner Comments and Announcements

Commissioner Aagesen is planning on meeting with Alex Quigley to work on social media template for the Facebook page discuss where there is overlap and share postings and calendars on events. The City is creating a Next Door app that can target content messaging to specific neighborhood groups. Commissioner Aagesen encouraged commissioners to make their opinion known to council and DNA on where Farmer's Market in 2020 should be held. Festival Park or Spring St.

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.