



Minutes • Tuesday, February 11, 2020 • 6:00 p.m.
Edward Schock Centre of Elgin
West Conference Room
100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

A. Call to order (chairperson)

B. Roll Call (staff liaison) Chairperson Aagesen, Commissioners Anderson, Armstrong, Biss, Kenney, Flaherty present.

C. Approval of previous meeting's minutes -Commission Armstrong motioned to approve minutes pending corrections are made.

D. Other Persons Present- Viviene M. Bailey with Fox Valley Citizens wanted to know how the commission gets funding. Robin Migalla-Elgin Green Group would like to see commission post in the Gail Borden Library newsletter. Angele T., John T. Zawada. Paul Berland from Extinct Rebellion Group asked for the Commission to make a recommendation to City Council for their support on a Climate Emergency Declaration resolution. Sighting the City of Chicago resolution that was just passed.

E. Turf Quality Consideration Presentation-

Chairperson Aagesen motioned to table the turf quality presentation to the next Green Infrastructure Work Group meeting on March 4th. Second by Commissioner Armstrong, motion passed 5 Ayes to 1 no. Chairperson Aagesen read a personal statement (insert)

"Dear commissioners, I want to be completely transparent as to why I am not participating in the presentation from Greg Hulke this evening. I'd also like to state that I would like this statement to be attached in its entirety to the minutes for this meeting.

Over the last few years, as your leader, I have advocated this commission's increased involvement and oversight in the plans, initiatives, and general business of this city. We are an advisory commission. What we do is driven by our guiding documents like our plan -much of which is inextricably linked to the day-to-day workings of our city, things like service contracts and established practices like land management. For example, we simply cannot address our goal of alternative energy use in its entirety if our recommendation is not considered or even asked for when our city purchases municipal fleet vehicles. Our involvement from step one is critical.

Therefore, I have continually requested a proverbial seat at the table, to gain access to the process by which decisions are ultimately made for our citizens. Much of what happens, happens without our knowledge or participation. On June 17th of this year, I sat in a meeting with Jan and Molly and (among other things) reiterated the need for such involvement and even inquired as to how we can add ourselves to this process to avoid the pitfalls of last-minute and hurried consideration, or even worse, no consideration at all.

However, here we are again. Tonight's presentation is representative of a pattern that I would like to stop, and I would like it to stop for the benefit of our commission and citizens on their behalf. This pattern includes three parts: hasty additions of presentations or discussions to our agenda, little to no opportunity to review any material, supporting documents, or outside research and consultations in advance, and an impending discussion or decision by city council (the LED lightbulb consideration is a great example). I know that many of you were unhappy or even furious with the way in which our waste contract was renewed without the commission's recommendation. Keep that in mind.

Tonight's agenda item came to be known by all of us less than 72 hours ago (1). There is a singular, two-page memo (2), and of course, a presentation to city council tomorrow with the intention to ultimately discuss the purchase of chemicals (3). Now, I know Gregg welcomed feedback and questions in the email coming from Jan, so it will be argued that point two isn't valid, however what was provided simply does not rise to the level of legitimate consideration from all of us. Many of us have likely spent more time and deliberation deciding on dinner than we have with this information. The expediency by which we have been asked to participate is concerning and it should concern all of you. You should ask yourself: if I were a citizen of this

community, would I want decisions made like this or discussions had like this? Is this a robust and inclusive conversation of not only ourselves but our volunteers on work groups, the community at large, and even other experts and municipalities? Is this fair?

All of this leads me to believe that this is another instance in which we're being presented with information prior to council meetings to "run it by sustainability" as has happened before. THAT is a problem. If that isn't the case and I'm wrong, then I don't see why it can't go another month to allow more time to a.) Have staff meet with the entirety of the work group so that they can provide some more robust and specialized thoughts to the commission, b.) Hear council's response, questions, and discussion on this tomorrow that may inform ours with suggestions like community surveys and c.) Allow more time for things like public feedback and consideration of best practices in other municipalities.

I agree that "receiving input as it relates to the commission 's goals " from Gregg 's memo is important- to me that sounds like a recommendation that should be provided before it is presented to the council. I don't believe that our informal conversation around this presentation tonight, whatever that might be, can rise to the level of "solutions or option s" and in fact it can't, since it hasn't been given a discussion option on our agenda.

I respectfully retain my position that a better process would include more time for consideration from (at a minimum) our work group, citizens, and other relevant parties. If alternative treatments are what this presentation is seeking from council (which is what is stated in the agenda packet), then I would hope that at some point our recommendation might be considered. As that cannot happen tonight, then I am voting to table this presentation to next month or refuse to engage in this presentation altogether.

If we wish for Elgin 's sustainability efforts to be considered with the same legitimacy as those of other leaders in the field like Oak Park, then we must start acting like leaders and demand a seat at that table from day one and stop allowing for this pattern to continue. I don't wish to be adversarial; I only wish to be collaborative and responsible stewards of the precious time and energy that we have. If you feel as I do, I invite you to do the same."

Commission recommends that city staff need to improve efforts to give more advance notice, research and discussion to commission. Discussion at the work groups level to hear presentations first which allows for more community members to join in the discussion and be part of the process and possible recommendation. Green Infrastructure Work group will schedule meeting with Greg to hear presentation.

F. Working Groups and Task-Related updates

Solar work group teams: Solar for All team focusing on workforce initiatives and EnergSage is building awareness use of online marketing. Elgin Earth Month: Marketing is big push now with posters, press releases, social media etc. Vendor booth commitments and leads are still being pursued. Strong Towns ticket sales is live on Eventbrite. 50/50 activities and final calendar of events is available on Basecamp and at <http://www.conceptmill.com/earthmonth/>. Waste work group is working to re-connect with Woodstock rep. Green Expo vendor tracking is on Basecamp for reviewing and website is up and live. Checking into Food Truck at car show. IL Food Scrape Coalition is interested in presenting at expo. Trans. & Mobility work group is working with city staff on a complete street policy.

G. Discussion Items

1. Simple Recycling

Commissioner Anderson motioned to recommend the renewal of the Simple Recycling contract; Second by Commissioner Biss, motioned passed unanimously. Commission recommends to city staff to include with renewal increase in customer service, marketing of service and meet with contractor to review the negative comments.

2. Commission Planning Documents

Discussion of adopting new committee member responsibilities document by chair-elect and replacing the individual engagement plan. Conflict of Interest need to be reviewed, shouldn't current focus areas be updated, sharing of areas of interest, and action plan link might need to be condensed.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to replace existing IEP with new Committee Member Responsibilities but the motion was withdrawn and tabled to the next meeting to allow for more time to review document.

3. Ordinance Changes

Staff submitted the consolidation of ordinance change recommendations by commission and sent it to Kim Dewis, City Clerk. It is being reviewed by our legal update and Kim can give an update at March mtg.

4. Budget update and reallocation of funding if necessary

FCC Grant proposal was not approved by City Council but Council recommended that Sustainability Commission work to develop and put in place a grant program application process. Once the grant program is in place FCC can apply again through the new program. Commissioner Andersen expressed feels the City owes the church an apology for how long the process took and that the City does not take into consideration the low income EJ communities in community outreach. It is unfortunate that Solar Work group will be not be focusing on programs for these communities but on workforce development.

5. Grant program recommendation

Chair-elect Armstrong pulled together ECN grant application program information and existing grant program and past outlines from Sustainability Commission. Anderson motioned to create a Ad Hoc Task Force to work on putting together a framework and for commission approval in April. Motion second by Chair Aagesen, motion passed unanimously. Commission Armstrong, Kenney, Aagesen and Staff will work on the task force.

H. Old Business

Special Meeting on March 7, from 9am-Noon

Budget allocations, funding requests and Earth Month committee members.

I. Commissioner comments/announcements

Future Search Planning Committee document needs everyone to add names for recruitment. Please visit Dave Segal, he's in Assisted Living now and was a founding member of the commission.

J. Adjourn

Chair Aagesen motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Biss second, motion passed.

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