



Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 30 • 6:00p.m.
Robert Gilliam Municipal Complex, City Hall
Second Floor City Council Chambers
150 Dexter Court, Elgin, IL 60120

- A. Call to order:** 6:03pm
- B. Roll Call:** Chairperson Armstrong, Councilwoman Rauschenberger, Commissioners Kroiss, Kenney, Flaherty, and Biss.
- C. Action Item:** Approval of February 11, 2020 and March 10, 2020 meeting's minutes. Commissioner Biss motioned to approve February and Commissioner Kenney seconded, motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Biss motioned to approve the March Meeting minutes and Commissioner Kenney seconded, Commissioner Kroiss abstained and motion passed 4-0.
- D. Other persons present:** Robin Migalla Liaison from Elgin Green Group 350, Angela Talbert, Vicki Wilson, Paul Berland.
- i.** Paul Berland made a public comment on how he feels the ESC, City Council, City Staff are still not taking climate change emergency seriously enough. Some
- E. Discussion Items**
1. Adoption of electronic attendance ordinance bylaw that was amended and approved by City Council allowing electronic attendance at meetings. Elgin Municipal Code Section 3.03.130.
 - i.** Chairperson Armstrong reviewed the electronic attendance ordinance would allow up to 2 commissioners to attend electronically as long as we had a physical quorum at meetings. Commissioner Flaherty asked what a quorum was and how many it would be. Liaison explain it would be 50% plus 1 and currently we have only 6 commissioners so the quorum would be 4. Commissioner Flaherty wanted to know what the definition of electronic attendance. Staff explained it meant by telephone, video, or internet connection and with a 24hour notification before meeting to the Liaison or Chairperson.
 - ii.** Commissioner Biss motioned to adopt the electronic attendance ordinance for Elgin Sustainability Commission. Commissioner seconded motion and motion was approved 5-0.
 2. Formation of new Climate Change work group.
 - i.** Chairperson Armstrong explained the formation of a new Climate Change work group. A sign-up sheet was created by both him and staff for individuals who are interested in serving on the work group. Chair Armstrong explained that we would need a Commissioner to lead this

work group and is there a commissioner here would want to serve as the work group lead. Commissioner Flaherty asked persons present if there was anyone present who wanted to serve on the work group and is it a sub-group, starting from scratch. Staff explained that this work group is coming about due to the recent recommendation of ESC and City Council in adopting the Climate Emergency Resolution. This sub-committee or work group would focus on climate change measures, initiatives, develop actions and recommendations needed to restore a safe climate. Initiatives include education of residents, city staff on climate science and begin to lower emissions, and restore ecosystems. Chair Armstrong explained the work group would make recommendations to commission and then the commission would vote to approve those recommendations for council. He expressed that all work groups will need to revisit who will be leading the work group. Robin Migalla asked commission who is going to chair Solar and Waste now that those commissioners have resigned. Commissioner Biss commented that he is still serving on both work groups, so there is still a commissioner serving on those groups. Commissioner Flaherty commented that he felt that this Climate Change work group is redundant and that all the current work groups have initiatives that effect or involve climate change. Chairperson Armstrong thought it was ok to have overlap among the work groups. This new work group will need to have short- and long-term goals. Councilwoman Rauschenberger suggested that all the City's Dept. Directors should be asked to give an overview of what they have done and or are proposing to do in the way of projects or policies that are assisting in combating climate change. Commissioner Biss and Kenney don't feel it needs to be a commissioner who leads a work group. Chairperson Armstrong said it is a good starting point for the new work group to review what the City has done with their HVAC systems, possible fleet replacement plans, and new building energy codes. Commissioner Kroiss said he would take on leading the Climate Change Work group and Chair Armstrong said he would assist. Staff will work with both to review volunteer interest forms.

3. Review of Grant Program of application and scoring criteria.
 - i. Chairperson Armstrong explained the history behind why the Commission is putting a grant program in place. He presented the commission with a draft examples scoring system and application. If the commission desires to provide funding to an outside organization and or individual- outside of a sponsorship or partnership - then it would be best practice to establish a grant program. A grant program would allow the commission to align on goals, outcomes, evaluation, measurement, impact and reporting. From a transparency and inclusive lens, an established program would be able to be promoted as a complete tool that would allow anyone who fits the criterion to apply to receive funding. Also, the program's standard agreements and related materials would go through a legal review one time, and then the program would be able to run itself after (meaning,

each agreement would not need to go to legal). Commissioner Biss likes the point system that was in Chairperson's grant draft application. Chairperson Armstrong would like to have further discussion at the next meeting in July.

F. Announcements.

1. Staff asked about Farmers Market application for Solar Work Group. Erik Anderson had inquired about whether we it had been sent in or not. Staff felt 10 Fridays would probably be difficult due to limited volunteer commitment required. Suggested if Commission was still interested to consider the Bronze level at 5 Fridays. Maybe another work group could take a Friday or two. Councilwoman Rauschenberger suggested we could use it to take provide herbicide spraying map and survey the residents as to what parks they would like to see the reduction in spraying to take place.
2. Commissioner Flaherty spoke of working with the Wild Ones to help them with their Native Garden@ Home project in the way of providing signage and assistance. He feels they are providing a very important need in helping and educating the residents on reducing herbicide use and promoting native landscapes. Both staff and Councilwoman Rauschenberger agreed to help out. Chairperson Armstrong commented that it would be something that the Green Infrastructure group could assist with as well.

G. Adjourn: 6:38pm

1. Commissioner Kroiss motioned to adjourn and Commissioner seconded motion. Motion passed 5-0.