



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:00 p.m.
Hemmens Cultural Center, Lower Exhibition Hall
45 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

A. Call to Order: 6:20pm

B. Recognize Persons Present: Robin Migalla and Director of Neighborhood Services Aaron Cosentino.

C. Roll Call: Chairperson Armstrong, Councilwoman Raschenberger, Commissioners Biss, Kroiss, Flaherty, Kenney.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. Due to late start waiting for a quorum to be present, approval of minutes were not approved to instead hear presentation from Aaron Cosentino.

E. Presentation

1. Aaron Cosentino, Director of Neighborhood Services gave a presentation on a proposed Private Property Stormwater Assistance Program. Cosentino informed Commission that the City has been tracking flooding on private property through code cases. He has been tracking them over time and there is an increase of flooding over time in the streets, and private property. Overtime a homeowner changes the property grade that led to grade and flooding. Homeowners then come to the City and seek assistance for help with the flooding. Because the City is limited into installing on private property, the City wants to be involved into a partnership with homeowners to resolve the flooding problem. Fixing flooding can be a costly fix and can deter homeowners from proper drainage. This would be a city program 50% of total cost of work up to \$3,000 for private installation and \$5,000 max. for contractor installation of drainage of stormwater off of personal property. The plans would need to be submitted to Engineering Dept. For approval, City would inspect work and permits would need to be required. Resident would provide proof of payment of project to City in order to receive the assistance. Criteria for the program would be documentation of standing water for at least 72 hours after a rain event and proof of property damage due to standing water. Projects that would be funded include rain gardens, dry well, drain tile, re-grading, sump pumps. The City has allocated \$40,000 in 2020 with Riverboat funds to provide financial assistance to homeowners who are experiencing flooding on private property. The hope is that this program could continue each year with more funds available. Commissioner Biss commented on how problematic it is for homeowners to fix drainage issues alone. The only solution might be to excavate the whole property to allow it to go to the aquifer. Climate change has affected the amount of 100 yr. rain events are more frequent. It really needs to start with the land developers and following a topographic map and then we just send it to the streets. Chairperson Armstrong added that developers mound each lot to have swells in between each house. Each property is unique and not one solution fits all. There are multiple things such as design standards, run-off, Illinois farming practices, and increased water vapor content due to rising temp. contributing to the monsoon rain events we now see. Commissioner Biss asked if City has a large scale stormwater plan? Answer is no. Chair Armstrong commented that Kane Co. has a stormwater ordinance that it applies city-wide. Stormwater management hasn't been on part of a City's plan. Biss gave a recommendation that the city should have a long term stormwater plan. Commissioner Flaherty thinks it is a good idea but the smaller amount money should make more of an impact with smaller amounts by decreasing matching amounts for such as french drains, dry wells, and rain gardens. He is biased toward native gardens and rain garden. He likes to keep water on the property and thinks it is more

attainable. Cosentino asked if there is a water table map on how far down water table is in areas? Commissioner Biss thinks its important to replenish our local aquifers by planning these draining projects using those maps and charting it out. Commissioner Kroiss thinks this program is a good solution it will help to bridge the gap with homeowners. Commissioner Flaherty and Biss suggested consider promoting sustainable solutions such as native plants, dry wells and rain gardens for more reimbursement with the program. It would promote biodiversity and the commission could really promote it. Chair Armstrong thinks we should reach out to Kane Co. Stormwater and Kane/Dupage Water Reclamation District for a map of what parts of town have history of flooding. Staff will send out map to commissioners, gather more data and meet with Green Infrastructure Work Group to come up with a recommendation before year end.

F. Budget Report

A. 2020

1. Summary of 2020, rollover fund amount and escrow fund. Review of discussion has to how allocate escrow and rollover amount.

B. 2021 Draft

1. Proposed fund of \$24,000 with an unallocated amount of \$1750 for 2021. Councilwoman Rauschenberger suggested rolling unallocated amount into a line item called Education/Training. This would activity bring in speaker or education purposes. Commissioner Kroiss motioned to approve the 2021 draft budget, second by Biss motioned unanimously passed.

G. Reports - Programs/Activities/Initiatives

1. Working Group Reports

1. Waste- No report
2. Green Infrastructure- Chair Armstrong will reach out for meeting on stormwater program and Tyler Creek Watershed.
3. Climate Action- Mtg. On Aug. 18th
4. Asset Mapping-Commissioner Kroiss trying to gather data and how to use it within the legal aspect

2. Sustainability Grant Program

1. Commissioner Kroiss comments on scoring maximum be 31 points with 20 being required recommended to qualify for grant. Councilwoman Rauschenberger asked if grant will be first come, first serve or rolling basis. The grant program will be a first come, first serve.

3. Sustainability Awards-Commissioner McMullen absent.

H. Other Business

1. Farmers Market sign up for dates for Fridays Aug. 21st through Sept. 18th. Staff will set-up a calendar, rain barrel raffle and pesticide survey. Commissioner Flaherty wants to provide native seed packets.

I. Announcements

1. Commission has 4 board members vacancies and invites are going out to applicants to attend a board meeting.
2. Climate Action Work Group meeting is Aug. 18th.
3. Best wishes to Commissioner Kenney who has taken a new job in Chicago and due to residency requirements has had to resign from the board.

J. Adjournment: Commissioner Kroiss motioned adjourn, seconded by Biss passed, adjourned at 8:00pm

