



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 6:00 p.m.

Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, West Conference Room

100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

1. **Call to Order: 6:14pm**
2. **Roll Call:** Chairperson Armstrong, Commissioners Kroiss, Biss, McMullen.
3. **Recognize Persons Present:** Curt Mette, Jordan Hill, Angela Talbert, Paul Berland, Dan Wagner, Robin Migalla, John Kokoris, Nancy Lamia, Sandy Kaptain, Debb Perez.
4. **Approval of Minutes-** Commissioner Kroiss motioned to approve all 3 meeting minutes. Commissioner Biss second motion, motion unanimously approved.
 - June 30, 2020 Minutes
 - August 6, 2020 Minutes
 - August 11, 2020 Minutes
5. **Budget Report**
 - 2020- Commission reviewed budget rollover account to confirm expenditures out of the account. Chair Armstrong recounted that at the last meeting the Commission suggested providing a sponsorship to Northern Kane Co. Wild Ones, sponsorship to Koloni Bikeshare, and to a Demonstration Native Garden Project. Commissioner McMullen commented that the demonstration garden project, if not at Foundry Park, needs to be in a visible location. She reviewed the amounts for each sponsorship: \$3,000 to Bikeshare, \$3,500 to the Wild Ones Start in your Yard program, and \$2900 for the garden project. Staff commented that Wild Ones will need to make a presentation detailing how the sponsorship will be used in the Start in your Yard program, and DNA will need to detail how the sponsorship will be used in the Bikeshare program. Staff also noted that the Green Infrastructure work group will need to meet with Greg Hulke to introduce the demonstration garden project. Commissioner Kroiss motioned to approve sponsorships to Bikeshare for \$3,000, Wild Ones for \$3,500 and Land Management For \$2,900 for a demonstration garden. The motion was seconded by McMullen and passed unanimously.
6. **Reports - Programs/Activities/Initiatives**
 - Work Group Reports-
 - Waste-Commissioner Biss reported that the work group is still discussing recommending the Plastic Bag Ban and educating the community on contamination in recycling. A big factor is removal of stickers from recycling. Elgin's contamination rate is at 16%.

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Green Infrastructure-Will be creating a meeting soon.

Climate Action- Had first work group meeting on Aug. 18 and proposed sending out a climate change message to all residents through the water bill, library newsletter, direct mailing, and Facebook messaging. A message was drafted but is too long to fit on the water bill and needs to be edited. Group wants to meet more frequently and informally to highlight priorities that concern climate crisis, increase change and provide education. Paul Berland feels group should meet frequently to setup better communications. He expressed his frustration and concern on not getting the climate change message statement out on water bill yet and brought up commission should do a direct mail postcard to all Elgin residents. Staff gave costs of a direct mail to 41,000 Elgin Households estimated at \$16,000 postage alone not counting costs of printing would bring cost to \$20,000 requiring council approval. Commissioner McMullen stressed we would do a better job getting the message out and engaging the community using multiple platforms. It would be counter-productive and not sustainable to be mailing out postcards when we have free social media platforms to use. Chairperson Armstrong stated that we first need to get the message edited down to fit the various platforms and that we first need to develop a landing page on the City's website that is visible and gives education. We would direct residents in the message to the landing page for direction on what they can do. Comment was given that we need to promote the climate resolution on the City's website. Sandy Kaptain commented that we should create a catchy icon for the page so that we use it in all marketing. We should also have a dedicated section on website just for climate change issues. Commissioner Biss commented that ending bad behavior in people's habits will be the most difficult.

Water-Need to begin recruiting volunteers again.

- KTCU Solar Loan Program-Commissioner Biss motioned that the Commission approve recommending the KCTU Solar Loan program. Kroiss seconded motioned passed. Staff will tell Communication Director and KCTU.
- Sustainability Awards-Commissioner McMullen has someone she believes might be able to help us with planning out the awards. She suggested moving the awards to next April and tying it in with Earth Month. McMullen will suggest award categories at the next Commission meeting on October 13th.

7. Other Business

- Future Search-Staff reported that Rise' Jones is willing to come and discuss with Commission how we can do Future Search in a virtual manner. She just did this with another group already using Zoom.

8. Announcements-Fox River Clean-Up Day on Sept. 19th.Robin Migalla mentioned Kane County's Energy Environment Committee is holding meetings on their 5 yr. Waste Management plan. She suggests people read it and give comments on it.

9. Adjournment- Motioned to adjourn by Kroiss at 7:26pm.

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