



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 6:00 p.m.
Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, Heritage Ballroom
100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

1. **Call to Order: 6:08pm**
2. **Roll Call:** Chairperson Armstrong, Commissioners Biss, Flaherty, Kroiss, McMullen: Council Liaison Rauschenberger
3. **Recognize Persons Present:** Paul Berland, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, Jennifer Jarland – Kane County Recycling Coordinator, Robin Migalla, Jean Muntz, and Susan Swing.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Kroiss made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Biss seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

5. **Reports - Programs/Activities/Initiatives:**

- **Work Group Reports:**

Climate Action – The Work Group is developing a web-based landing page and messaging to educate the public on the climate emergency and the need to act quickly to mitigate the release of greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere. The group will recommend actions that government, business, institutions, and individuals can take (and need to take) to address the climate emergency and mitigate global warming. A lengthy discussion centered around the need to access multiple media outlets to distribute and connect people to the information.

Green Infrastructure – City staff is working with Midwest Grows Green to development a low impact turf maintenance program for areas in Lords Park. Recommendations will include a reduction or elimination of pesticide use, and education resources in support of the program.

City staff and the Northern Kane County Chapter of Wild Ones are discussing partnering on solutions to mitigating ponding of stormwater on private property in areas scattered about the city. Staff is proposing a grant program to assist private property owners in stormwater related problems.

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.

The Work Group and the Northern Kane County Chapter of Wild Ones will discuss potential locations to establish demonstration pollinator gardens with City staff. One possible location might be the former library property along the Fox River Trail, near Hemmens and The Centre.

Asset Mapping – The Work Group is continuing with efforts to map community assets.

Water – The Work Group is working with City staff and the Northern Kane County Chapter of Wild Ones on the stormwater mitigation initiatives described above under the Green Infrastructure Work Group activities.

Friends of the Fox River presented a proposal to remove the Kimball Street dam. Grant funding to study the impact, benefits and cost of dam removal could be available with City Council support.

Waste – The Work Group is continuing its research on programs which could result in a ban on single use plastic bags or a use fee.

Robin Migalla presented two videos addressing the plastic waste problem impacting global waters and potable water supplies. Also discussed was an IEPA initiative to test water supplies in every Illinois community for fluorinated pollutants known as PFAs. PFAs are used in many products and are now linked to a variety of health risks. Migalla requested that the Commission present this information to the City Council.

Comments on the draft Kane County 2020 Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Plan are due by October 26, 2020. Kane County is looking for any public comment pertinent to the recommendations for actions proposed in the plan, from input on community impacts to ideas for minimizing waste and maximizing diversion from landfills.

Solar – PlanIt Green and Seven Generations Ahead will be sponsoring a webinar showcasing a community solar project under development near Rockford. For customers wanting to access solar energy, but not able to install on their property, a subscription to a community solar project offers access to “green” energy.

Transportation & Mobility – The City has released a request for proposals seeking a design consultant to undertake Phase II Engineering and Construction Engineering to complete Bike Route 4. The bike route will link the Fox River Trail with destinations and neighborhoods in the southwest sector of Elgin and areas west to Bowes Creek Subdivision.

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6. Other Business:

- Rise' Jones will attend the November meeting via Zoom to discuss with the Commission how we can facilitate Future Search in a virtual manner. She has experience facilitating this with another group using Zoom.
- The Commissioners had a discussion regarding on-line conversations related to activities of the Commission and work groups, and compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

7. Announcements:

- Start in Your Yard w/Doug Tallamy, October 22 at 7:00pm.
LINK: <https://attend.gailbordeninfo/event/4594088>
- NENA will host an event at Anne/Douglas Park to unveil some new sculptural elements in the butterfly/pollinator garden. The event is scheduled for Sunday, October 18 at 2:00pm.

8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: November 10, 2020

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