



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, West Conference Room

100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

1. **Call to Order: 6:13pm**
2. **Persons Present:** In-person- Tom Armstrong, Jan Monell, Judith Brown and Sandy Huckabee. Virtually: Steve Kroiss, Jeff Biss, Deb McMullen, Chris Flaherty, Mary Alica Masonick, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, Robin Migalla, Jean Muntz, Susan Swing, Susan Filz, Cesar Mendez.
3. **Approval of December 8, 2020 Minutes:** Commissioner Biss motion to approve, Commissioner Flaherty second, motion passed unanimously.
4. **Work Group Reports**
 - **Climate Action:** Chair Armstrong reported that the Climate Action landing webpage is now active, the library newsletter went out in mid-December and the water bill message went out beginning January 10th. The Council approved the creation of a FT Sustainability Coordinator position and is funding a Energy and Greenhouse Gas Inventory of the City in 2021. They also setup their 2021 work group meeting schedule.
 - **Green Infrastructure:** Commissioner Flaherty reported that they are working on establishing native gardens at East Side Neighborhood Community Garden. They reached out to that group in hopes of est. these demo native beds, and are looking at other locations. The first 3 years will be focused on planting maintenance and selection. Considering different types of sponsorship programs to assist in the development of the garden and launching ownership among neighborhood.
 - **Asset Mapping:** Commissioner Kroiss reported that working on getting permission to access public data.
 - **Water:** Commissioner McMullen reported they haven't formalized any 2021 plans as of yet. Former Commissioner Anderson sent a information on IDNR seminar that is about stopping the migration of Asian crap into Fox River.
 - **Waste:** Commissioner Biss reported that they are working on rationale document on plastic bag ban memo. Waiting on information from Village of Woodstock, IL.
 - **Solar:** None
 - **Transportation & Mobility:** Chair Armstrong reported City approval of consultant construction engineer for the Grohlich/SWAN/ECC bike route. There is also a Dundee Ave. widening project that will eliminate a tree bank to make way for a 6 ft. wide sidewalk, concerned that it will not be very pedestrian friendly.

5. Other Business

- Request for Letter of Support by Friends of the Fox River for Grant Application: Commissioner Kroiss motioned to approve letter of support for FFR, Commissioner Biss seconded motion, and motion passed unanimously.
- 2021 Budget: \$24,000 was approved for 2021 Commission budget.
- 2021 Schedule of Regular & Special Meetings: Discussion of Special Meeting focus. Commissioner McMullen commented how important it is to have this brainstorming meeting on Feb. 20th. Chair Armstrong wants the work groups to transition to align more with alternative energy, zero waste, infrastructure, flooding that are impacted by climate change. Commissioner Flaherty feels the Commission work groups' need to be more intentional in their community involvement. Liaison Monell suggested that each work group provide one community engagement event in 2021 and bring that to the meeting for discussion. Chair Armstrong reminded everyone that we are still looking at most event to be online and virtual in 2021.

6. Announcements:

Commissioner McMullen shared was grateful for Teach-In links web links getting posted on Facebook page. Hopeful that at the planning retreat meeting commissioners will bring events, and leads on possible sponsorships.

Chair Armstrong pointed out that the City of Evanston makes use of free interns thru AmeriCorps to help coordinate events. Maybe that is something the new position could look into coordinating.

7. **Adjournment:** 6:50pm; Commissioner McMullen motion to adjourn, Commissioner Kroiss seconded.