

## Sustainability Commission

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, West Conference Room

100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60123

#### 1. Call to Order: 6:05pm

2. **Persons Present:** Chair Armstrong, Liaison Monell, Commissioners Biss, McMullen, Flaherty, Sandy Kaptain, Angela Talbert, Mary Alice Masonik, Jean Muntz, Erik Anderson, Susan Swing, Gary Swick, Robin Migalla, Carol Rauschenberger, Cheryl Brumbaugh, Kevin Zaldivar, Nancy Lamia, Tia Agesen.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Biss motioned to approve November 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Commissioner McMullen. Minutes approved.

#### 4. Funding Requests

- Start in Your Yard – Northern Kane County Wild Ones- Jean Muntz explained their funding request and informed Commission what the funding request is being used to pay for: website developer, plant vouchers for native plant packages, and yard signage. They have run a good publicity campaign partnering with the library and police department. They had an October video on Doug Talamy, utilized police connections in the neighborhoods with newsletter, scheduled for a January/February reading event at Gail Borden Library and has been involved with virtual presentations through U-46. Commissioner McMullen motioned to approve NKWO funding request for \$3500, Commissioner Flaherty seconded motion, motion passed unanimously.
- In-Stream Water Quality Monitoring Equipment – Friends of the Fox River- Gary Swick from FOFR explained that the funding would purchase metered and upgrade the water monitoring equipment they use for science based experiential educational program by upgrading the in-stream equipment for classes and by securing 24 additional calf boots for younger students, and a multi parameter photometer and pH meter to measure the chemical characteristics of streams. Commissioner McMullen commented how important it is to have age appropriate boots for the kids. Chair Armstrong asked how many students you reach now. FOFR reaches 1200 students, 3 trips a year per school and they are booked solid every year. Commissioner Flaherty motioned to approve funding request of \$1944. Commissioner Biss seconded motion, motion passed unanimously.

#### 5. Work Group Reports

- Climate Action- Chair Armstrong informed Commission that landing page was being developed with Molly Gillespie's help and on target to have it go live before Gail Borden Library newsletter release. Commission will have a full page in that newsletter scheduled for release December 12<sup>th</sup>. Water bill message is being edited to fit on bill and hopefully will be out in water bills beginning January 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Green Infrastructure- Armstrong and Flaherty discussing locations of other demo garden in Elgin. Flaherty has been working with eastside residents on garden. Commissioner Flaherty has developed concept plan for pollinator gardens on raised beds and need to sit down with Greg Hulke to develop it on Channing Garden site.
- Asset Mapping
- Water-Commissioner McMullen working partnering County on technological side, with NKWO, Soil and Water Conservation Dist., and U-46 on rain gardens. Focusing student efforts on existing near west rain gardens already there working on educational piece with storm water and water conservation issues.

- Waste- Working on a preliminary report in Basecamp to record work group efforts and comment.
- Solar-Erik Anderson reported that returning back into Elgin from Door Co. and trying to gauge what the work group has been doing. No one on the work group wants to stand-up to be Work group is in need of a chair and wanted to know if the Commission had any ideas on that and what the work group should be focused on. Chair Armstrong commented that the Commissions focus is to develop climate action plans and solar is an important part of it due to the focus in reduction in greenhouse gases.
- Transportation & Mobility-Committee reviewed phase 2 engineering plans for Bike Route 4 at the City. It is a route that has a lot of connections, Baxter Woodman is the firm who was recommended to take on the project and will then go to city council for approval. The route is long from Grolich Park to Rt. 31, ECC, to Bowes Creek out west.

## 6. Other Business

- 2021 Meeting Schedule- Discussion of Commission schedule on second Tuesdays of the month and the insertion of establishing a planning meeting and a budget retreat meeting. Commissioner McMullen commented that it is important that we get planning established because we are missing out on opportunities to get our message out to the public. Discussion on Saturday dates for the special meeting dates. Commissioner Flaherty motioned to approve second Tuesday of the month for Commission meetings in 2021 and to add special mtg. dates for planning and budget on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> and July 24<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Biss seconded motion, approved unanimously.
- Special Meeting Dates – Planning Retreat, Budget Retreat
- Grant Program – Grant Application Submission Cut-off Date is confirmed as October 31, 2021. Discussion on keeping the grant application submission date be October 31<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year. Commission confirmed that date was to stay October 31<sup>st</sup>.

7. **Announcements-** Councilwoman Rauschenberger informed Commission that a full-time Sustainability Coordinator position and Greenhouse Gas Inventory is part of the 2021 Budget for approval on December 23<sup>rd</sup> City Council meeting. It was debated at last Council meeting how it was a partisan issue but she provided statistics on the issue. She hoped Commissioners were watching the Council meetings to see the discussion. Commissioner Flaherty commented that he thought it was good these items got discussed. Commissioner McMullen stressed that it is even more evident that the Commission needs to plan our public message better. Chair Armstrong that it is important the City recognize that this is now part of the National agenda. Cheryl Brumbaugh commented that it is important to write to City Council in support of these budget additions. Flaherty and Armstrong agreed and recommended that you can email it, contact 311 with a comment or address support to City Clerk or Mayor. Commissioner McMullen provided info. on National Biodiversity Teach-In. Scheduled for Feb. 1, 2021 and runs 5 days on Fridays. There was over 100,000 participants in 2020, please share info. Commissioner Flaherty provided information that there are Clean Energy Grants available for Elgin schools for K-12 for environmental education. He will send a link.

8. **Adjournment:** Commissioner McMullen motion to adjourn at 7:03pm, motion seconded by Commissioner Biss.