



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, West Conference Room

100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

1. **Call to Order:** 6:02pm
2. **Persons Present:** Tom Armstrong, Jan Monell, Rob Vandermillin
Persons Virtually Present: Carol Rauschenberger, Jeff Biss, Chris Flaherty, Steve Kroiss, Deb McMullen, Robin Migalla, Mary Alice Masonick, Nancy Lamia, Susan Swing, Sarah Hunt, Daniel Brozer.
3. **Motion to Approve of January 12, 2021 Minutes:** McMullen motion, Kroiss second, motion passed unanimously.
4. **City Hall Parking Lot Rehabilitation**

Mike Pubentz, Public Works Director presented three options for conceptual design plans on storm water run-off of City Hall plaza parking lot. Option 1: Rain Garden collection islands; Option 2: Reverse Crown on parking lot directing water away drive lanes into permeable paver alleys or porous HMA ally; Option 3: Extend permeable pavers into parking stalls, reconstruct new crown; Option 4: Bio Swales on curb ends added, water collects in curb and planter ends. The site will receive a basic resurfacing and use new storm water collection option. Kroiss asked if tree removal could be minimal on project and if rain gardens similar to Riverside Dr. could be considered; staff will get back on that, maintenance of it is important as well as walking patterns. McMullen asked if Opt. 1 storm water is leading East or West, is there a pattern to the lot. Questioned if we had a curb ordinance requiring curbs because Bio Swales don't work with curbs. Opt. 3 Did you consider cars leaking oil/gas into storm water drains which lead to river. Asked if Kane Co. Cougar Stadium parking lot with permeable pavers was investigated. Armstrong how much is cost to strip down existing surface and regrade it correctly. Staff answer was \$350K. He also suggested consider Bio Swales similar to what is built on Spartan Dr. at ECC, they have curb cuts to allow water flow. Biss asked if the tree islands will be curbed. Yes. Suggested to get rid of curbs and allow water to go there without resurfacing parking lot. Kroiss commented that curbs do provide structure for asphalt. McMullen commented that curbs do prevent water flowing, so location is important. Flaherty commented on how the pavers were going to direct the pollutants, agrees with concerns over water getting sent into river with it. He prefers rain gardens option best. Appreciates staff looking into alternative options for storm water.
5. **Work Group Reports and Task Related Updates**

Climate- Discussed full-time coordinator position priorities.
Green Infrastructure- Had a large attendance of 12. Discussed native garden instruction at East

Side Garden, protecting and planting more Oak trees; sites considered HHNC, Elgin HS, Sherman Hospital. They need to establish a regular meeting date and setup a Zoom calendar.

Asset: None

Water-Met with Ted Penes of IDNR on them changing name of Asian Crap and promoting it as a sustainable food product. He is considering joining the work group.

Waste- None; Still need to check-in with work group and read materials from Woodstock. Want to find out if Oak Park suspended ban during pandemic.

Solar- Community Solar subscription program is a good option for residents who don't want to or can't install solar panels on roof. Trajectory Partners is having a webinar on Monday, February 15th. Need to provide more resident education on this to public. Armstrong mentioned it is a good example of a possible sponsorship of a event for Earth Month in April.

Transportation/Mobility- GM is committed to going electric vehicles 100% by 2035. City needs to look at codes and zoning to increase EV infrastructure for EV charging stations.

6. New Business

- Financial Funding Request- East Side Community Garden installation of second water station Sarah Hunt from ECG discussed expanding the existing water to a second station for fruit trees, and addition of more garden plots. Flaherty asked to see the new layout and pointed out that Sherman gardens as only 1 water station. Also asked if other funding sources were considered or donations? Group has not sought other funding sources. Armstrong commented that the \$6K funding request was a fourth of total Commission budget for the year and we would have to look at the whole budget to find cuts to fund the request. Maybe they could apply for a grant and seek other funding sources. Did they consider donations for part of the work? Commission doesn't have to decide on this request tonight. McMullen and Kroiss need more time to review Commission's budget to see where cuts could be made to approve the request. Asked Sarah when an answer was necessary, decision could wait and that additional water wouldn't be a problem until May, spring planning won't be effected. Armstrong tabled the funding request to the Feb. 20th Planning Meeting.
- Discussion on Working Groups Focus
Armstrong asked that the Commission discuss at the Feb. 20th Planning Meeting consider re-organizing our work groups to align with addressing climate change initiatives. He proposed new work groups for the Commission to be: Zero Waste, Inventory Gas Emission- City Target, Building Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Transportation/Mobility, and Outreach Education. He wanted to provide context for this agenda item on the Feb. 20th meeting.

7. Old Business

- Update on Sustainability Coordinator- Staff informed Commissioned that the CMO office is working on job description and should have it finished in February with a projected posting date of March. They are seeking Commissioner's list of priorities this position should focus on. Flaherty feels they should be overseeing the storm water management education to the public and feels a big role for this position should be education of residents on sustainable initiatives. Rauschenberger commented that the position should be a liaison to all dept. and work collaboratively with them on creating sustainable practices to make sure every dept. is committed to it and report back to Council on what the is happening. The second priority should be to represent the City and interface with all outside organizations, community

groups that focus on sustainable projects and make those City priorities. Armstrong commented that the position needs to have the autonomy to reach out to all community groups to lead sustainable projects and initiatives.

- Update on Status of Appointment of New Commissioners-Going to Council on March 10th meeting.
 - Update on Staff Review of Sustainability Grant Program-Back from legal, setup of webpage, rollout of the information to public in March.
8. **Announcements:** Staff Liaison informed everyone of adhering to virtual meeting policies of not allowing public to attend meetings virtually. No publicly sharing of Zoom password unless, public has an item on the agenda. Public is to attend in-person and a public meeting space is provided per OMA.
9. **Motion to Adjourn:** 7:38pm; Flaherty motion; Kroiss seconded, motion passed.