



Meeting Minutes

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

Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, West Conference Room

100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

1. **Call to Order**-6:17pm
2. **In-Persons Present**- Tom Armstrong, Jan Monell, Robin Migalla, Yena Navado, Cathy Hays, Dan Brosier, Rob VanderMolen, Chris Flaherty, Jeff Biss, and Diane.
Video-Persons Present- Steve Kroiss, Deb McMullen, Tom Pubentz, Aaron Neal, Carol Rauschenberger.
3. **Approval of Minutes**-Motion to approve both February meeting minutes by Commissioner Flaherty and second by Commissioner Biss; passed unanimously.
 - February 9, 2021 Minutes
 - February 20, 2021 Minutes
4. **Presentation: LED Streetlight Project status report**
 - Mike Pubentz, Public Works Director and Aaron Neal, Public Works Superintendent Presented to their LED Replacement program for the City and seeking recommendation from Commission. Aaron Neal summarized the LED Replacement Program as a way to move the City to more energy efficient, cost effective, and least environmental impact choice of street lighting. The City has 400 miles of roadway and 7500 street lights which 75% are LED. This program will reduce the City's energy costs and have an immediate return on investment within 3-4 years. The City will benefit from a rebate incentive check of \$400-405K this year on the project. Com-Ed started this incentive program in 2018 and with COVID causing the project to be tabled in 2020 allowed the City to further investigate the benefits of replacing LED 4000K lights to 3000k vs. 3600k. Commissioner McMullen commented that studies have shown that pollinators are effected by LED light 3600k and higher, good to know we are choosing 3000k. She also wanted to know how the old lights will be recycled. Tom Pubentz commented the new bulbs have a 10yr. warranty. Old lights must be certified that they are recycled facility. Chair Armstrong asked what Com-Ed using- answer was 3000k. Commissioner Kroiss commented his appreciation in all the hard work staff has done to look at all the cost effective and sustainable ways to make this project possible. Aaron Neal reported they will be presenting this to City Council on April 14th for approval. Commissioner Kroiss motioned the Commission to support recommending the LED Streetlight Project to council, seconded by Commissioner Flaherty. Motioned passed unanimously.
5. **Work Group Reports and Task Related Updates**
 - Work Group Refocus-Chair Armstrong reporting on shifting focus on the work groups from our February planning meeting. He wants to continue to work on a new set of work groups to build on the work we have worked on and they will fall into six general categories. 1. Renewable Energy- Include broader big picture renewable energy alternatives such as green hydrogen etc. 2. Building Efficiency- Looking at City building code new requirements, 3. Transportation Infrastructure- Bicycling, walking, and public, infrastructure focus in place for EV autos, 4. Green Infrastructure- Land and Water, 5. Zero Waste- Should still keep that goal of zero waste, 6. Education- Outreach to community, businesses, residents on ways to

mitigate climate change, greenhouse gases and emissions, become more resilient to impacts of climate change. He will be putting together more description and to see if this is the direction the Commission wants to move to. Robin Migalla asked to consider circle economies as well. Recycling of renewable energy such as solar panels recoverable materials needs to be researched. Commissioner McMullen feels there needs to be a strong difference in definition of between Transportation Infrastructure and Green Infrastructure for clarity and education purposes. Chair Armstrong will be working on completing the description to getting it out to everyone so people can decide where they want to work on. So we can begin focusing on

- Earth Month 2021-Commissioner Chris Flaherty agreed to head up the Earth Month programs and Commissioner McMullen would create a google calendar to track activities and that we would be the clearinghouse to inform the public. Commissioner Biss pointed out update the Basecamp project group for 2021 and it's up to everyone to put down what they are doing on the spreadsheet so Staff can create posts on social media. Commissioner Flaherty reported all his outreach work with creating videos on highlighting community groups' sustainability efforts. They are 1-3 min. videos that go over mission and goals of group or interviews of members. Groups Chris has lined up or could be contacted are: GreenGroup 350, Friends of Fox, NENA Butterfly Garden, Math and Science Academy, NK Wild Ones, St. Johns Lutheran Church, Tyler Creek Watershed, Elgin Public Museum, Sherman Prairie Gardens, East Side Community Garden, Burnidge Woods, and Green Guerilla. He did express he needs assistance with the editing. Commissioner Biss agrees that all we need to do is reach out to these groups because they might already have these videos available to share. Chair Armstrong asked McMullen if u-46 had anything we could share. Commissioner McMullen is working on project with EPA on Indoor Environment presentation on April 22nd for teacher workshop and she could open that up to everyone. Public comment about if videos will be in Spanish, answer is no; no one to translate or provide services but good suggestion. Commissioner Kroiss commented that YouTube has translation captioning. Robin Migalla suggested Dan Slack as an editing possibility. Chair Armstrong suggested Jeff Meyer as someone to contact to tape the town hall panel, handle discussion and camera person. Commissioner Flaherty said we could gather questions from students and then just have us reading and answering the questions it wouldn't be complicated about it being live. Commissioner McMullen says we can pre-screen the questions. Staff suggested reaching out to Beacon Academy at South Elgin HS for assistance. McMullen commented that Beacon Academy wants to be paid and they are very limited due to the new hybrid schedule. Suggestion to create Sustainability YouTube channel to also post videos, speakers and future events. Question on who would be contributing videos. Staff will look into setting one up for the Commission and sharing log-in permission to commissioners.

6. New Business

- Zoom Subscription-Discussion on Commission purchasing a Zoom Pro Subscription to allow work groups to host their meetings virtually and go beyond the 40 minutes time frame on free version. Commissioner McMullen also feels adding a Webinar subscription should be considered to allow Commission to host virtual webinar events and panel format safely. Commissioner Kroiss commented that Zoom is the easiest for most people to operate and because of COVID most well-known. He has no issues using it. Chair Armstrong likes the links for Webinars. Commissioner McMullen motioned to approve purchase of Zoom Pro Subscription for \$149.90, seconded by Commissioner Kroiss; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Flaherty motioned to approve the purchase of a 2 month Zoom Webinar Add-On Tool for \$40 each month, seconded by Commissioner McMullen; motion passed unanimously.

7. Old Business

- Update on Sustainability Coordinator- Staff reported that the position is posted on City website and other national job sites. It closes on March 24th and then review of applicants will begin with hopes to schedule first and second round of interviews in April. Encourage the sharing of the job posting.
 - Update on Sustainability Grant Program Webpage- Staff reported that the webpage has been completed and can go live once the Rubric is updated and uploaded. Press release will go on as well to inform public. Commissioner McMullen led Rubric conversation with her recommendation of: Increase #3 to 5 points, #5 & #6 are redundant, consider combining #4, 5 & 6, is #7 even needed. Commissioner Biss and agreed with eliminating #7 and is fine with #3 going to 5 pts. Commissioner Flaherty also agreed with pushing #3 to 5 pts.
8. **Announcements-** Carol Rauschenberger requesting an update on what commission is doing for council in April. Chair Armstrong says he is working on a presentation.
9. **Adjournment-**8:14pm-Motion to Adjourn Commissioner Kroiss, second by Commissioner Biss; motion passed.