



August ESC Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 10, 2021 • 6:00 p.m.
Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, Heritage Ballroom Room,
100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

- A. Call to Order:** 6:05pm
- B. Roll Call:** Chairperson: Tom Armstrong, Commissioners: Jeff Biss, Chris Flaherty, Steve Kroiss, Curt Mette, Dekovia Livingston, Dylan Mooney, Councilperson: Carol Rauschenberger, Staff Liaison: Jan Monell, Sustainability Analyst: Mikala Larson and Student Rep.: Jordan Hall. Commissioner: Deb McMullen arrived late.
- C. Recognize Persons Present:** Mark Pruitt, Vivienne Bailey, Mary Roberts, MaryAlice Masonick, Sandy Kaptain, Robin Migalla, William Kohl.
- D. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Comm. Kroiss motioned, and Comm. Biss seconded motion to approve July 13th minutes. Motioned passed 6-1-1. Comm. Kroiss abstained, Comm. McMullen absent. Comm. Biss motioned, and Comm. Mette seconded motion to approve July 24th minutes. Motioned passed 6-1-1. Comm. Kroiss abstained, Comm. McMullen absent.
- E. Welcome Mikala Larson, Sustainability Analyst:** Welcome Mikala to her new position with the City of Elgin. She is eager to get started and very excited about meeting with Commission.
- F. Mark Pruitt of Illinois Community Choice Aggregation Network Presentation:** Mark Pruitt introduced himself and discussed his background with ICCAN and City of Elgin. He has been a consultant with the City on various projects such as Community Choice Aggregation and CS2 Solar Subscription since 2011. Mark explained how the electric power grid works, all energy sources are mixed and pros/cons of REC's and Net metering. He presented the perspectives on 3 clean energy options; direct use, renewable energy credits (REC) and net metering credits. Mark gave the 3 clean energy approaches a municipality could use: municipal accts.-all 3 options, comm. solar subscription, and municipal aggregation. Councilperson Rauschenberger suggested we should find out what the community wants. Do they want renewable energy with higher rates? Comm. Mooney questioned how net metering rates were calculated. Mark said that the current solar farm subscription rate is about 6 months out from being full until more farms come online. Any current HH with solar would not get enrolled into the aggregation program. The 2 questions are what are the City's priorities with regards to energy supply and which option is best? The City would need to update the governance to a new IPA which just requires an ordinance change.

G. Discussion Items

1. Farmers Market “Native Roots”- August 27-September 24

Discussion on what the message and focus of the program. It should have an educational aspect and provide giveaway starter garden packages for residents. It could also have a component of building awareness of the Demo Gardens for Eastside Comm. Garden and seek sponsorships for those demo beds. Comm. Flaherty was to provide a plant purchase proposal but could only give an estimate of \$2200-2500 to purchase plants and winter caretaking. Staff impressed the importance of not over purchasing plant material and that we were up against a short turn around on marketing materials. Funds would be needed to purchase plants, and marketing materials. Comm. McMullen motioned to approve up to \$4500 in funding of plant purchase, care, delivery, marketing and transportation. Comm. Kroiss seconded it and motion passed 7-0-1 with Comm. Flaherty abstaining from vote.

H. Other Business: Friends of the Fox River fundraiser event at Bandito Barneys in E. Dundee on August 13th. Mentioned the Wild Ones of Kane Co. online plant sale. Councilperson Rauschenberger asked that the Renewable Work group focus on the electrical aggregation program, go out to RFP and make a recommendation to City Staff.

I. Adjourn: Comm. McMullen motioned, Comm. Kroiss seconded to adjourn meeting at 7:59pm. Motion passed 8-0.