



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, Heritage Ball Room
100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

1. **Call to Order:** 6:02pm
2. **Recognize Persons Present:** Tom Armstrong, Jan Monell, Jeff Biss, Chris Flaherty, Steve Kroiss, Curt Mette, Dekovia Livingston, Dylan Mooney, Jordan Hill, Mary Chavaneu, Vivienne Bailey, Cheryl Burnacki, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, MaryAlice Masonick, Patrick Richardson, Sandy Kaptain, Sharon Durling, Art Malm, and Eric Weiss.
3. **Public Comment:** Mary Chavaneu ECAN- Questioned wants to know who is Mark Pruitt, Why hasn't ESC moved their proposal forward to Council, want Commission to give them an answer as to when their proposal is going to move forward too many lives are at stake. Vivienne Baily ECAN- Concern over franchise fees on cable bill, gas, electric-why is there a franchise fee getting charged who gets this money. MaryAlice Masonick CCL-Following up on where is the recommendation memo on the Carbon Fee Dividend Act support. Cheryl Burnacki ECAN- Wants the City to require renewable electricity aggregation. Did the Commission even read it the proposal? Commission doesn't act like it's a urgent concern and their proposal is not being considered. Look at recent heat wave how many climate indicators do you need. Sandy Kaptain why is this taking another month for staff to address? Chair Armstrong pointed out that the Commission did motion to support the proposal for electrical aggregation and asked City Staff to bring program forward to Commission. Councilperson Rauschenberger thinks the holdup is the onboarding of new staff for sustainability. Patrick Richardson expressed his concern for the city to promote the tree bank program, focus more on planting fruit trees to assist in food scarcity, increase tree canopy to lower temp., increase solar power on all city buildings, and plant trees and berry bushes on all parkways in the City such as Foundry Park. Sandy Kaptain-ElginGreen Groups 350- Stated we only have 7 yrs. to hold the temp. to only 1 degree rise before it's irreversible.
4. **Approval of June 8, 2021 Minutes:** Comm. Biss motioned, Comm. Mette seconded, approval of minutes 7-0, 1 absent.
5. **Presentation of Removal of Kimball Street Dam- Art Malm/Eric Weiss:** Art Malm presented his City Council recommendation of removal of the Kimball Street Dam for environmental, economic, aesthetic and cultural reasons. The Dam creates a giant trap for organic matter, creation of algae, silt, bacteria, and depletes the oxygen levels. Removing the Dam eliminates life threatening water and creates a recreational resource. Eric Weiss, Water Director for the City supports the removal for public safety reasons, environmental impacts and improved water quality. He commented that a thorough study on the impacts to the Nelson Water Plant intake would need to be considered. The removal of the Dam will be large financial and structural challenge. There will need to be a study on the impact on the Kimball St. bridge structure, there is a proposal for a 2022 study on the removal of the dam and then it would need to be put in the 2023 budget. Comm. Livingston asked what the proposed completion timeline. Army Corp would need to do a 2 yr. study and then it would take 2-3 yr. for removal and for nature to establish again. Art Malm commented that it was a 7 yr. process for Carpentersville dam removal that is

set to begin next summer. Chair Armstrong confirmed one option is to move the river over to the north side. Art Malm said that a intake pipe for the Nelson water plant would need to be put downstream. Chair Armstrong commented that removing all the dams along the Fox River would enable the state to make it a national waterway. Comm. Flaherty asked if the presentation was well received by council. Councilperson Rauschenberger said yes, and that it was asked for commission support of the resolution. She wanted to know how climate change has affected the river. Eric replied that the river flow and level is increasing despite the spring drought and City water supply forecast is good. There has also been no decrease in the cities 10 wells. Art Malm said there is an increase in water temp. which leads to more algae and more money in cleaning the water. Chair Armstrong wanted to know who own the new river front. Comm. Kroiss motioned to that the Commission support the Kimball Dam removal resolution and support hosting a Fox River Study group public forum. Comm. Mooney seconded, motion passed 7-0.

6. Discussion Items:

- YWCA Grant Application Scoring- Elgin Community Fridge Project- Commission wants staff to reach out to the YWCA for answers on if they have gotten approval from City Health Dept. and Zoning Dept., no location was not given, and how will vandalism be avoided.
- Climate Action Plan of San Diego - Kevin Zaldivar- Did not attend meeting, no discussion.

7. Work Group Reports and Task Related Updates

- Work Group Assignments-Discussion on all of the Commissioners choices for focus groups. Everyone was in agreement to the new structure.
- Waste - Single Use Plastic Bag Fee- Comm. Biss sent out a draft City of the Whole memo in Basecamp and really needs everyone's feedback on it. Would like it on the Aug. agenda.
- Green Infrastructure - Native/Pollinator Garden Project- Comm. Flaherty discussed the Eastside Garden Demo Garden beds, proposed 7 demo gardens along Channing and Division St. Demo themes: Rain, butterfly, pollinator, vegetable, native. They would be used as learning tools and educational to community for create similar beds at their home. He hopes that businesses and community groups could be asked to sponsor beds. Is looking for Commission support of project. Comm. Mooney asked cost. Est. cost is \$1000 per bed, depends upon soil and what type of bed perimeters are used. Councilperson commented it wouldn't need to go the City Council but Greg Hulke would need to give approval. Staff would ask Greg Hulke for assistance.

- 8. New Business-** Councilperson Rauschenberger gave her suggestions that the Commission should put together their top 10 list of ideas they want her to jump in on from day one. Good project for each work group to bring 2 ideas that should be on top of her list. She asked that Chairperson Armstrong put that in a memo from the Commissioners. Chair Armstrong expressed they should include EV charging stations, building codes, climate action plan. Councilperson Rauschenberger wants to use American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds the City will receive to plant more trees. She wants more ideas from Commission on ways to spend those funds on sustainable initiatives.

9. Old Business

- 10. Announcements-** Dennis Jurs Bike Race – July 24th, Special Budget Meeting July 24th, 9-11am,

- 11. Adjournment:** 8:23pm-Comm. Flaherty motioned to adjourn, second by Comm. Kroiss, motion passed 7-0.

