



August Sustainability Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes • Tuesday, September 14, 2021 • 6:00 p.m.
Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, Heritage Ballroom Room,
100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

A. Call to Order: 6:03pm

1. Roll Call:

- i. Members Present:** Tom Armstrong, Dekovia Livingston, Chris Flaherty, Curt Mette, Jeff Biss, Dan Brosier
- ii. Members Absent:** Steve Kroiss, Dylan Mooney, Deb McMullen; Student Rep: Jordon Hill
- iii. Council Liaison Present:** Carol Rauschenberger
- iv. Staff Liaison Present:** Mikala Larson, Jan Monell

B. Recognize Persons Present

- 1. Welcome to new Commissioner, Dan Brosier.**
- 2. EA CAN Presentation**
 - i. Vivienne Bailey and Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford**
 - 1. Requesting 3 recommendations to City Council:**
 - a. Procure 100% renewable energy to residents and small businesses through purchase of RECs and Municipal Aggregation**
 - b. City staff work immediately to negotiate this contract.**
 - c. City staff create effective communication campaign.**
 - 2. Public note: one member of the public forum expressed support for this proposal.**
 - 3. Commissioner note: one Commissioner commented they are in support of this proposal, but feels it needs to be sent to a subcommittee to be fleshed out further.**

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. August 10, 2021

- i. Commissioner Brosier moves to approve Aug. 10th minutes, Comm. Flaherty seconds, motion passes 6-0.*

D. Source Water Protection Plan from the Water Department

- 1. Eric Weiss, Tim Holdeman, and Danielle Gallet presenting**

- i. Illinois EPA oversees implementation of the source water protection plan. Review of protection plan to happen every 5 years. There are 6 Objectives for Source Water Protection Program. Regulation exists that requires all drinking water utilities in state of IL to have a Source Water Protection Plan. City Council-approved plans due to EPA by July 2022.
- ii. Vision Statement draft, presented to Sustainability Commission for consideration.
 - 1. Commissioners discussed draft vision statement, good words included and what should be included.
 - 2. Council liaison: recommends Commission support vision statement with inclusion of an equity statement.
 - 3. *Comm. Flaherty motions that the Sustainability Commission supports the draft vision statement with inclusion of an equity component, Comm. Mette seconds, motion passes 6-0.*

E. Discussion Items

1. Sherman Natural Prairie and Community Grant Request

- i. Marcia Koenen, one member of Sherman Natural Prairie and Community Garden Committee, spoke about the grant request and project. Demonstration gardens at Sherman show growing techniques, and food that is grown is donated to food shelves. The next step for them is to create compost on site. Education is a huge part of their program.
- ii. Commissioners score the application off of the scoring rubric. Scoring is high enough to pass.
- iii. *Comm. Flaherty motions to approve the grant funding request, Comm. Livingston seconds, motion passes 6-0-0*

2. Commissioner Updates

- i. Chairperson Armstrong: Climate Solutions 101, Project Drawdown starts via Gail Borden Library, Fox River Day on Saturday 9/18/21, 9/20/21 SWAN will have a rain garden meeting, 9/22/21 Gail Borden Library has a program, 10/5/21 National Wild Ones organization will have a virtual webinar, 10/28/21 Ed Collins Celebrates Oak-tober

3. Elgin Native Roots

- i. Program has been a huge success. All plants have been given away the past two Fridays within 30 minutes. Have received an outpouring of positive comments from the community, some even saying the only reason they came to the Farmers Market was for this program. Staff received multiple inquiries about how other communities and organizations can implement a similar program. Staff mentioned Comm. Flaherty's suggestion to purchase more plants and presented pricing for two purchasing options.

- ii. Commissioner Flaherty motioned to buy two more flats of each plug, but first contact Wild Ones to see if they have any leftover plants that are what we need, Commissioner Livingston seconded, motion passes 6-0-0*
- iii.** Comm. Flaherty provided two estimates for trees and shrubs to be given away at the last week of the Elgin Native Roots Program.
 - 1.** Commissioners discussed timeline and logistics of program, and decision was made to hold off on purchasing trees/shrubs for this year's Woodland Edge Elgin Native Roots. Idea will be tabled.

4. Native Demonstration Garden Funding Request

- i.** Great response on call for volunteer sheets. Comm. Flaherty has been in contact with Gifford Park Association, Naturalists, other groups. Talked about doing a monthly work day, with each group hosting a work day. Two-pronged garden adoption: residents adopt and take care of a garden bed, and businesses could financially sponsor a garden bed.
- ii.** Commissioner comments:
 - 1.** Use the plans Commissioner Flaherty put together and look for funding and partners to offset the cost of this project.
 - 2.** Need to break down the program into actionables. Definitely something we should be looking at budgeting for.
- iii.** Next steps: Staff and Chairperson to meet with Greg Hulke.

5. Discussing Energy Options presented by Mark Pruitt

- i.** Staff recommends a two-step approach: roll out community solar and municipal aggregation.
- ii.** Public comment:
 - 1.** EA CAN has been working on a municipal aggregation proposal since April. EA CAN will not support anything less than 100% renewable energy, achieved through municipal aggregation and RECs. EA CAN emphasizes the pressure of time and the climate crisis.
- iii.** Discussion of the past municipal aggregation program in Elgin, pros and cons of the options, discussion regarding difference between Fixed Price option and Price Match. Commissioners discussed the options and EA CAN's requests. Discussed needing to understand the interest of the community, wanting to present the best option to Council, and wanting to be leaders as the 6th largest city in IL.
- iv.** Staff comment:
 - 1.** The goal to cleaner energy is shared, the only question is what is the first step. Staff suggests an informative presentation to City

Council, explaining and informing Council of what the Commission is considering.

v. Council liaison:

1. Move forward with achieving 100% renewable energy through municipal aggregation with RECs along with community solar.

vi. *Commissioner Livingston motioned to present City Council with pursuing 100% renewable energy through municipal aggregation and RECs and community solar, Commissioner Brosier seconded, motion passes 6-0.*

6. Instagram Account: @elginsustainability

- i. The Sustainability Commission now has an account on Instagram. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook to help promote the Commission and the work we do.

7. Table Remaining Agenda Items

- i. *Commissioner Brosier motioned to table the remaining agenda items, Commissioner Livingston seconded, motion passes 6-0-0.*

F. Other Business

G. Adjourn:

1. *Commissioner Brosier motioned to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Livingston seconded, motion passed 6-0.*
2. Meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.

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