



December Sustainability Commission Meeting  
Agenda • Tuesday, December 14, 2021 • 6:00 p.m.

Virtual option via Zoom, contact [laron\\_m@cityofelgin.org](mailto:laron_m@cityofelgin.org) for the link.

In-person option: Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, Heritage Ballroom Room,  
100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120.

#### **A. Call to Order: 6:01pm**

##### 1. Zoom Notes:

- i. Recording Disclaimer: Under Open Meetings Act, a verbatim recording must be taken of this virtual meeting. This meeting will be recorded.
- ii. Please refrain from using the chat for conversation. Public comment can be stated using the microphone during Recognize Persons Present, and Commissioner comments should be made via microphone so all can hear.

##### 2. Roll Call

- i. Present: In-Person Commissioners: Tom Armstrong, Dan Brosier; Student Rep. Jordon Hill; Staff Liaison Mikala Larson. Zoom-joining Commissioners: David Jurina, Jeff Biss, Katie Gronke, Kevin Zaldivar; Council Liaison Carol Rauschenberger.
- ii. Absent: Commissioners: Curt Mette, Dekovia Livingston.

#### **B. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

##### 1. November 9th, 2021

- i. *Comm. Brosier moved to approve the November 9<sup>th</sup> minutes, Comm. Biss seconded. Motion passes unanimously.*

Commissioner Flaherty joined at 6:06.

#### **C. Recognize Persons Present**

1. Elgin Area Leadership Academy Project Share: Participants in the Elgin Area Leadership Academy, Lulu Blacksmith, Taylor Noble, Laura Bedolla, and Mikala Larson, presented about their 2022 Environmental Stewardship program that has the purpose of community engagement and education. The program will feature Stormwater Education and Touch a Truck: Recycling Edition. Requested support from Sustainability Commission.

#### **D. Discussion Items**

1. Commissioner Transition – Thank You & Welcome: Thank you to the outgoing Commissioners: Deb McMullen and Steve Kroiss, and welcome to the new Commissioners: Katie Gronke, David Jurina, and Kevin Zaldivar.
2. Tentative: Greg Hulke Tree Talk: Tree planting doubling in 2022: from 250 to 500 trees. Program has been 100% free past 7-8 years. Homeowner buy-in = tree success. Trees are selected from Suburban Tree Consortium, and are selected based on highest success rate for parkway planting.

Suburban Tree Consortium is local (5 miles away), meaning the trees from there are best suited for this area. The Forestry Department aims to not plant more than 10% of one tree species per year. Not every parkway is suitable for a tree, which is one reason why parkways aren't fully planted. Parkway smaller than 5 feet are avoided, parkways over or under infrastructure is avoided. Forestry does not cut down trees unless absolutely necessary. At this time, no information shared with homeowners after tree is removed. Elgin is a member of Tree City USA.

Davey Resource Group is currently completing a tree inventory for the City of Elgin, first inventory since approx. 10 years ago. The inventory will help guide tree selection going forward, provide data on Elgin's tree population, and will take 4 years to complete.

Forestry's ask of the Sustainability Commission: educate the community. All education to be produced in English and Spanish. Good resource: Chicago Region Trees Initiative. **Goal: have all available trees get requested by homeowners and increase tree survivability rates.** Educate the public on why trees are needed, why they will benefit Elgin's future. Typical tree loss: last year was close to a net zero, approximately 250-300 trees removed (with 250 having been planted). May be able to use tree inventory to map tree equity. Council Liaison would like to form a subcommittee to build an education program for the Tree Program. Commissioner Jurina commented: need a comprehensive strategy to fight the urban heat island effect. Greg Hulke could be a partner on this, but this would be driven by Commission.

### 3. 2021 Budget

- i. Native Demonstration Gardens: Project on former Channing Y property. 15 garden beds will be installed. Comment: concern about success rate of plants due to compacted existing soil. Commissioner Flaherty feels confident that soil has been amended both with turning and compost additions, and plants can be selected that will survive.

Signage: Commissioner Flaherty noted that education is sometimes as important as the garden itself. Estimates shared from Vacker Signs and Pulse Design. Flagstone engraving for project sponsors: include existing sponsors and can add additional sponsors at a later date, allowing program to grow.

*1. Commissioner Flaherty moves to spend up to \$6,000 to purchase main sign and engraved stone from La Farge for the Native Demonstration Garden project. Commissioner Biss seconds. Motion passes unanimously.*

- ii. Bike repair stations: Purchase of two bike repair stations from Dero. Discussed at previous meeting, but price of steel increased requiring a re-vote. Stations will assist in applying for Bike Friendly Community, and help Elgin Area Bikes and City of Elgin receive designations. Bike stations will help with the Commission's eligibility for transportation-related grants. Stations support local bicycling and access to repair opportunities.

*1. Commissioner Brosier motions to purchase two bike repair stations from Dero at the price of \$4,168.55. Comm. Flaherty seconded. Motion passes unanimously.*

- iii. Quick Guides: Purchase of Quick Guides from the League of American Bicyclists. The Quick Guide is a pocket-sized book that teaches safety techniques, proper riding, proper

attire for bicyclists, and it is used across the country to teach bicycle safety. Purchase would be for half English and half Spanish guides.

How the Quick Guides could be distributed: Local not-for-profit, Elgin Community Bikes, hosts community bike rides and Guides could be handed out then. Elgin Sustainability Commission could partner with Parks department to offer bike classes, and potentially coordinate with U-46 and local schools. Guides could be available at various City buildings and Gail Borden library. The Guides would be used to share information with the community about techniques to ride safe and ride smart. Guides can be taken passively, but would preferably be given out as supplemental information at classes or events. They would be used as part of an educational effort in the community.

1. *Commissioner Brosier moves to purchase 1,000 Quick guides in English and 1,000 Quick Guides in Spanish at a total cost of \$2,200. Commissioner Flaherty seconds.*

Commissioner Biss stepped away at 8:08pm. Returned at 8:11 pm.

4. 2022 Budget: Zoom webinar add-on removed. Drafted 2022 budget to be used as an advisory outline. Budget is for operational and programmatic costs for the Sustainability Commission. Commissioner Brosier commented: The Commission has the Sustainability Action Plan, that details Commission direction and guides Commission activities.
5. Update on Community Solar & Municipal Aggregation: Staff Liaison is working further on preparing for the community solar rollout. Targeted community solar program rollout is February 2022. Market being monitored for municipal aggregation opportunity, expected to come about in Spring 2022.

#### **E. Other Business**

1. Plastic Bag Fee: Continue working on this, identify concrete direction and goals of this project. Commissioner Biss will create an email to share the information with everyone. Want to move towards a single use bag fee ordinance that incorporates both plastic and paper.
2. Work Groups: Meetings must be documented and posted per Open Meetings Act. Commissioners to engage the community on work group activities.
3. Kane County Board is defining their Climate Action Plan. Kane County Board looking for volunteers. The Commission could reach out to the Kane County Board to work together and create a cohesive plan for the Fox Valley.

#### **F. Adjourn: 8:53pm**

1. *Commissioner Brosier motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Biss seconded. Motion passes unanimously.*

The City of Elgin is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities, are requested to contact ADA coordinator, at (847) 931-6076, or TTY/TDD (847) 931-5616 promptly to allow the City of Elgin to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.