



March Sustainability Commission Meeting
Minutes • Tuesday, March 8, 2022 • 6:00 p.m.
Virtual option via Zoom

In-person option: West Conference Room, Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, 100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

A. Call to Order: 6:01pm

1. Zoom Recording Disclaimer: Under Open Meetings Act, a verbatim recording must be taken of this virtual meeting.
2. Roll Call
 - i. Present: **In-Person:** Chairperson Tom Armstrong, Student Representative Jordon Hill, Staff Liaison Mikala Larson. **Zoom:** Commissioners: Chris Flaherty, Dan Brosier, David Jurina, Jeff Biss, Katie Gronke, Kevin Zaldivar, Dekovia Livingston, Council Liaison Carol Rauschenberger.
 - ii. Absent: Commissioner Curt Mette.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. February 15, 2022
 - i. *Commissioner Biss motioned to approve the February 15th, 2022 meeting minutes, Commissioner Jurina seconded. Motion passes unanimously.*

Commissioner Zaldivar joined at 6:05pm.

C. Recognize Persons Present

1. Laura Bedolla: A small group from Elgin Area Leadership Academy is putting on two environmental stewardship events: March 26th, 2022 "Water, Drains, the Fox, What do they have in common?" and April 2nd, 2022 "Recycling for the Whole Family." All are welcome.

D. Discussion Items

1. Single-Use Bag Fee Review: Commission work has previously been done on this project and is being continued. Commissioners to review the compiled documents for the single use bag fee ordinance project for further discussion at the next meeting. The current vision for the project is, through an ordinance, discourage use of single use bags (plastic and paper) at retail stores, and encourage use of reusable bags. The current suggested ordinance is modeled after nearby municipalities. The proposed model is intended to change consumer behavior. Commissioners are to make note of comments regarding the documents for further discussion at April meeting.
2. Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region & Elgin Sustainability Action Plan: Discussion to actively implement the CAP for the Chicago Region locally. To amplify the impact of the plan, customize the plan to Elgin and assess strategies for how they may or may not work for the Elgin community. Discussions are underway to team up with other entities and begin work on local-level CAP refinement and implementation. The existing commission workgroups align with the CAP. The CAP Appendices D and E offer summaries of the greater document, and by initially

focusing on these appendices, workgroups or individual commissioners can formulate recommendations for action based on CAP strategies, provide supporting background documentation, bring back to greater commission, and ultimately make whole-group recommendations for action. The CAP offers 'low-hanging fruit' initiatives. Utilizing the workgroups and interested stakeholders, can simultaneously boil down the plan and move forward on implementing initiatives to make progress and energize the community. Encourage and engage members of the public to get involved in commission workgroups to participate in these efforts. Any meeting of a public body with a majority of the quorum requires adherence to the Open Meetings Act. This project will require funding, support, and community buy-in. Through accomplishing initial projects, it's likely that may trigger additional buy-in as well as funding. Commissioners to identify initiatives to take the lead on and in workgroups. Submit recommendations to staff liaison, and bring recommendations and documentation to next meeting to follow up on discussion.

3. Commissioner Survey: Main comments were how to create efficiency and effectiveness within the commission. To move initiatives forward, establish commitments to work groups such as getting together, researching initiatives, working with community, and developing recommendations. A main takeaway is to utilize a work plan or recommendation template, so workgroups can flesh out projects, identify project lead(s), project timeline, CAP strategy alignment, and maintain accountability for accomplishing initiatives. Then bring the completed recommendation back to commission as a whole to discuss and vote on.

4. Native Demo Gardens & Eastside Neighborhood Gardens: Installation of native demonstration garden beds began in 2021, now in 2022 need to complete remaining installation. This project aids in increasing native plantings in public spaces. Commissioner Flaherty has done outreach to community groups, and is creating planting designs for the beds. The native demo beds offer the opportunity for residents to take part in caring for a garden and get involved with their community. The next step is to garner community involvement to adopt beds, to care for the plants throughout the year.

Commissioner Flaherty moved to approve the final native demonstration garden sign design. Commissioner Brosier seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Eastside Neighborhood Garden Update: GPA Garden Committee would like to add 3 raised garden beds and 2 benches to the existing Eastside Neighborhood Garden site. This requires an amendment to their existing agreement with the City that will go before City Council.

5. Earth Month: Updates on community events, organization events, and other resources happening during Earth Month will be posted to Sustainability Commission social medias (Facebook: Elgin Sustainability Commission, Instagram: @elginsustainability). Sustainability Commission will have a table at the Hawthorne Hills Nature Center Earth Day event on April 16th, event from 10am-2pm. On April 22nd at 11:30am, there will be an event at First Congregational Church to honor Dave Segl, who passed away earlier this year, to honor Dave's memory, including the time he donated to ESC. This year is the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day, April 29th.

6. Community Solar: Information regarding the program is continuing to be shared widely through the City's outreach plan consisting of bilingual social media posts, social media ads, direct mailer, City newsletter, press release, targeted mailing to low- and moderate-income residents, as well as through word of mouth, community partners, sharing with neighborhood and community groups, sharing through personal and professional networks. The effort is to educate all eligible participants of this program, so they know they can participate and what the benefits are. The outreach plan is designed to encourage wide-spread, equitable program sign-ups. Metrics tracking will be provided by staff liaison.

E. Other Business

1. Trees: Through the City's Parkway Tree Planting Program, 500 trees are available this year to be requested by residents for planting in parkways. Flyers have been developed to promote the program in schools, and digital versions of the flyer can be shared online and posted on social media. The intent is to share information widely and equitably regarding the program. TreeEquityScore.com can help with strategic tree outreach and planning.

Chicago Region Trees Initiative will be providing the City with tree tags that can be placed on public trees to convey the specific benefits of that tree.

The Morton Arboretum is offering a Centennial Tree Planting Program; through which 1,000 trees will be planted throughout the Chicago region. Interested host sites must be willing to plant at least 10 trees and provide volunteers. For selected sites, the Arboretum will provide technical support and planting event coordination. Learn more at:
<https://mortonarb.org/centennial/tree-planting-initiative/>

The City of Elgin was awarded two 2021 Tree City Awards for prioritizing tree planting and care: 2021 Tree City USA and 2021 Growth Award.

2. The two commission-purchased Dero Bike Repair Stations are arriving later in March.

F. Adjourn: 8:15pm

1. *Commissioner Brosier moves to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Jurina seconds. Motion passes unanimously.*

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