



April Sustainability Commission Meeting
Minutes • Tuesday, April 12, 2022 • 6:00 p.m.
Heritage Ballroom, Edward Schock Centre of Elgin,
100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

A. Call to Order: 6:03pm

1. *Commissioner Biss moves to allow Commissioner Jurina to attend via Zoom, Commissioner Brosier seconds. Motion passes.*
2. Roll Call
 - i. Present: Chairperson Tom Armstrong, Commissioners Chris Flaherty, Dan Brosier, David Jurina, Jeff Biss, Student Representative Jordon Hill, Council Liaison Carol Rauschenberger, Staff Liaison Mikala Larson.
 - ii. Absent: Commissioners Katie Gronke, Kevin Zaldivar, Dekovia Livingston.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. March 8, 2022
 - i. *Commissioner Biss moves to approve the March 8th minutes, Commissioner Flaherty seconds. Motion passes.*

C. Recognize Persons Present

1. Dirk Dypold: Dirk spoke about the work he does with his company, Advanced Geothermal Plumbing and Heating, LLC, and shared a few case studies of geothermal installs, explaining benefits achieved such as cost and greenhouse gas emissions reductions, addition of air conditioning, replacement of natural gas.
2. Holly Hudson: Holly, Senior Aquatic Biologist for CMAP, local government network liaison for City of Elgin and board member of the Tyler Creek Watershed Coalition, presented about watersheds and existing funding opportunities.

D. Discussion Items

1. Sustainable Elgin Community Grant: Eastside Neighborhood Gardens: Sarah Hunt provides an overview of her grant application for Eastside Neighborhood Gardens. The community garden was established in 2019 and is located at the corner of N Channing and Division streets. The land is leased from the City of Elgin. The Eastside Neighborhood Gardens are intending to expand their beds this year to accommodate additional gardener interest, and are requesting grant funds to help purchase building materials for bed construction. Intend to utilize in-kind donation from Elgin Men's Shed and gardeners. Sustainability Commissioners asks questions regarding the proposed project and complete grant scoring rubrics. Scoring rubrics to be totaled and grantee contacted within one week.
2. Farmers Market Partnership: Sarah Michaels, Elgin Farmers Market Manager from the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA), presents about partnership opportunities for the Sustainability Commission for the 2022 Farmers Market, the DNA's 22nd year of hosting the Market. The Market runs June-October. There will be themed days throughout the season; Sarah identified a few initial ideas for themed days, and is open to ideas. Partnership opportunities: A Market Sponsor entails giving a monetary amount that aligns with the various sponsorship levels. Organization is listed as a sponsor in all promotional and marketing materials and promoted elsewhere. Booth and tables set up by Market staff. A Community Partner entails receiving a free booth space set up by Market staff and has additional Market-related responsibilities: the organization adheres to the Market theme, greets attendees and tracks attendance, passes out flyers, and can promote own organization from provided booth. Organization must have a minimum of 2 volunteers, commit to attending the full Market hours (3-7pm or 3-8pm), and gatekeeping and directing customers is the priority.
3. Textile Recycling: Molly Gillespie from the City of Elgin gives an overview of the current textile recycling service available in Elgin, Simple Recycling, the program history, proposed business model changes, and next steps. The program came to Elgin in 2017 originated by the commission, and is a curbside collection service for a number of materials including clothing, textiles, and home goods to address the issue of throwing these items into the landfill. A request for proposals has been issued 3 times since 2017, and Simple Recycling is consistently the best choice. Simple Recycling is implementing a new business model with the purpose of reducing operational costs and increasing program ease of use, that would require an amended contract. Commission input requested regarding implementing the new program model.

Commissioner Flaherty moves to make a recommendation for the Schedule and Pickup model with Simple Recycling for a 3 year contract, Commissioner Biss seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

4. Bike Repair Stations: The two Dero Bike stations have been delivered. Chairperson Armstrong contacted Elgin bike community to poll location of the stations. In addition to stations, can include signs directing bicyclists to the stations and bike amenities. Discussed avenues for sharing the word about the stations: City webpages, Elgin Community Bikes, Gail Borden Library, Kane County, signage. Many opportunities to get the word out about the stations. May is Bike Month.

Commissioner Biss moves to locate one bike repair station by Gail Borden Library main branch and one bike repair station in the north end of Festival Park, Commissioner Flaherty seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

5. Single-Use Bag Fee Discussion: The Sustainability Commission discussed the single-use bag fee project. Discussion of example ordinances and programmatic steps, such as publicizing the initiative, training businesses, and outreach and education about the program. Recently, other Fox River communities put out a survey regarding single use bags. Commission had discussion regarding conducting community outreach as part of developing the recommendation for City Council, or including a recommendation for outreach as part of City Council recommendation. Outreach could consist of developing a survey or flyer and sharing with the community, with businesses that this would affect, with Chamber of Commerce and other partners, in an effort to bring the community in on this initiative. Discussion how to scale this initiative in low-income communities, examples of what other communities have done such as send out reusable bags or incorporating the LINK card. Final comments from commissioners will be compiled, and at the May meeting the latest version of the document will be voted on.
6. Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region & Elgin Sustainability Action Plan: City Council endorsed the Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region, which outlines strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate stressors. The Sustainability Commission discusses furthering work on CAP implementation, including creating a seventh workgroup dedicated to work on the CAP outside of monthly commission meetings. The commission discusses retiring the ESAP in an effort to focus and not duplicate efforts and in light of a prior ESAP progress report, but decides that until a formal plan is in place, should not retire the existing plan. City of Elgin and Kane County are working to align efforts on CAP implementation at the local level. The CAP sets a framework of actions, and a work group made up of a broad cross-section of stakeholders would help to fine tune the plan so it fits the interests and needs of Elgin. Identify goals, guidelines and plans for discussions, make efforts deliverable, achievable, and efficient. Identify most effective, most immediate actions.

E. Staff Updates

1. Community Solar: Progress update shared. Program postcards were mailed.
2. Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update: ICLEI USA was selected as the consultant for the GHG emissions inventory. City staff is executing the next steps.

F. Other Business

1. Work Groups: Update shared on workgroup formation. Discussed workgroup expectations and requirements.
2. Earth Month: Events and updates being posted to Sustainability Commission Facebook and Instagram pages. Hawthorne Hills Earth Day event is Saturday, April 16th. An Earth Month proclamation was read at April 13th City Council meeting. An Arbor Day proclamation will be read at April 27th City Council meeting.
3. E-Waste Recycling Event: Junkluggers, in partnership with City of Elgin, Elgin State Bank, and Chamber of Commerce will be holding an electronics-waste collection event at Elgin State Bank on Saturday, April 23rd, 1-3pm.
4. Native Demo Gardens Update: The garden beds are set to be completed by the end of May. After completion, activities will continue at the demonstration gardens including monthly workdays to increase education and engagement led by various local organizations. Residents and community members are welcome and encouraged to adopt-a-bed, which would entail keeping weeds down and keeping the bed watered. Interested residents can contact [larson_m@cityofelgin.org](mailto:l Larson_m@cityofelgin.org) if they are interested in adopting a bed.
5. International Compost Awareness Week: May 1-7th is International Compost Awareness Week. A proclamation will be read at April 27th City Council meeting. Events will be shared on Sustainability Commission social medias.

G. Adjourn: 9:25pm

1. *Commissioner Brosier motions to adjourn, Commissioner Biss seconds. 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.