



June Sustainability Commission Meeting
Minutes • Tuesday, June 14, 2022 • 6:00 p.m.

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

A. Call to Order: 6:03 p.m.

1. Roll Call: Present: Chairperson Tom Armstrong, Commissioners David Jurina, Jeff Biss, Katie Gronke, Chris Flaherty, Dan Brosier, Council Liaison Carol Rauschenberger, Staff Liaison Mikala Larson. Absent: Commissioners Dekovia Livingston, Kevin Zaldivar, Student Representative Jordon Hill

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. May 10, 2022
 - i. *Commissioner Biss motions to approve the May 10th meeting minutes. Commissioner Jurina seconds. Motion passes.*

C. Recognize Persons Present

1. Emma attended who is interested in an environmental career track.

D. Discussion Items

Commissioner Brosier joined at 6:08 p.m.

1. Farmers Market Tabling: The Sustainability Commission committed to the Elgin Farmers Market Bronze level sponsorship, allowing for 5 tabling dates during the Market season. Commissioners discussed tabling dates, coordinating the six work groups with themed Market days, and materials to offer at the booth. Discussed that work groups should begin assembling materials to have at the table. Tabling dates: **July 29** (Market theme: How does your garden grow?, Work group alignment: Urban Ecology), **August 12** (Market theme: National Farmers Market Week, Work group alignment: Outreach & Education), **August 19** (Market theme: Be an Environmentalist Week, Work group alignment: Zero Waste and Renewable Energy), **September 2** (Market theme: to be announced, Work group: Building Efficiency), **September 23** (Market theme: to be announced, Work group: Transportation & Mobility).

Commissioner Flaherty joined at 6:11 p.m.

2. Work Group Updates: Each of the six work groups have had one meeting, at which a recurring meeting date, time, and location was established, as well as chairpersons and minute-takers identified. The work group schedules will be posted on the website and has been shared with commissioners. Each work group will draft an agenda and take minutes for meetings. Had

discussion of a project management document for work groups to help organize project development and documentation, such as a recommendation document, which could provide consistency and process for fleshing out projects, formulating next steps and recommendations. Chairperson Armstrong and Staff Liaison will work on a draft template document to share with the commission for input. Discussion of virtual attendance options for meetings: meetings of a public body must abide by the Open Meetings Act (OMA), and at this time, the OMA does not allow for attendance by a means other than in-person outside of what is outlined in 5 ILCS 120/7 of the OMA Reference Guide. Commissioners Biss and Jurina and Staff Liaison had a meeting with Representative Anna Moeller's team to discuss this.

E. Staff Updates:

1. The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory data collection process is underway.
2. Community solar program updates were shared.

F. Other Business

1. Native Garden Demo Update: There were two successful events at the garden in June. The first was a very successful community planting at which all plants were installed within two hours. The commission is thankful for all who volunteered their time to install the plants. The commission had the first summer workday one week later, hosted by Gary Swick from Friends of the Fox River. The Urban Ecology work group talked about creating a Facebook page for the gardens to continue sharing education, updates and progress. The next summer workday will be hosted on July 17th by Illinois Master Naturalists. Staff Liaison shared the update that the project's main sign will ship soon. Commissioner Flaherty ordered plant I.D. tags to identify the scientific and common names of the installed plants.
2. Grow Solar Chicagoland: Solar Power Hours: The Sustainability Commission will host two Solar Power Hours this summer. The presentation introduces the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA), partner organizations, and the selected installer, and introduces the technology and explains what makes a property suitable for solar installation. It also introduces the concept of a group buy program, how it works, and dives deeper into the financials. The commission will be hosting Solar Power Hours on June 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the West Conference Room at the Centre, and September 1st at 2pm via Zoom.
3. Chairperson Armstrong shared an update about the Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan Public Meeting on Wednesday June 15th from 6-8 p.m. This will be the first opportunity to provide public comment on this process.
4. Briefly discussed commissioner terms: one is a commissioner until they are replaced or resign, and commissioners can serve two terms.

G. Adjourn: 7:13 p.m.

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