



December Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 • 6:00 p.m.

West Conference Room, Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, 100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

A. Call to Order:

1. The meeting of the Elgin Sustainability Commission was called to order at 6:05 p.m.
2. Roll Call:
 - i. Present: Chairperson Tom Armstrong, Commissioners David Jurina, Jeff Biss, Dan Brozier, Dekovia Livingston, Chris Flaherty, Kevin Zaldivar.
 - ii. Absent: Commissioners Sharene Gould-Dulabaum, Katie Gronke, Student Representative Isabella Cheung, Council Liaison Carol Rauschenberger, Staff Liaison Mikala Larson.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. November 7th, 2022
 - i. *A motion was made by Commissioner Jurina to approve the November 7th, 2022 minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Biss and passed unanimously.*
2. November 10th, 2022
 - i. *A motion was made by Commissioner Biss to approve the minutes of the November 10th, 2022 special meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jurina and passed with one abstention.*

C. Recognize Persons Present

1. Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford shared concerns about a diesel truck fueling station proposed to be located along Randall Road in Carpentersville.
2. Franklin Ramirez representing the Elgin Watchman podcast attended the meeting.

D. Discussion Items

1. Elgin Robotics Club presentation: Allison Sass introduced members of the Elgin Robotics Club. Club members presented a skit that will be performed as part of an upcoming robotics competition.
2. Sustainable Elgin Community Grant – Sherman Compost Structure Final Project Report: Marcia Koenen and Colleen Haas presented a final report on the project, including construction of the compost structure, its operation, and efforts by the group to educate the community about composting.

3. Sustainable Elgin Community Grant – East Side Neighborhood Gardens Final Project Report: Sarah Hunt and Susan Norquist presented a final report on the project, including a description of the new, larger garden beds added and neighborhood education/outreach/entertainment activities focused around the gardens.
4. Review of Submitted Proposals for Volunteer Recruitment Consultant: The commission discussed a proposal to provide volunteer recruitment services. Only one proposal was received with a cost breakdown which exceeds available funds. The proposal is informative as to the types and activities the commission could undertake to increase our exposure and grow community involvement. No action was taken.
5. Review of Commission Term Limits: The commission reviewed the current regulations governing term limits for all boards and commissions and discussed the pros and cons of term limits.
6. Public Power Project: Commissioner Zaldivar gave a presentation on municipal takeover of the local energy grid. The commissioners are asked to review the materials Commissioner Zaldivar has compiled so that it can have an informed discussion.
7. Work Group Updates:
Urban Ecology: The work group is continuing to look into and pursue important initiatives, including collaboration on the Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve tree planting project, planting/seeding native gardens in selected areas, the Channing/Division native gardens, and the city street tree planting program.

Renewable Energy: The work group continues to work on developing a solar pilot program based on a revolving loan fund model. The work group is also investigating takeover of the electrical grid as a municipal utility.

Transportation & Mobility: The work group continues to work on developing a pilot electric vehicle home charging rebate pilot program. Other initiatives include recommendation of a complete streets policy, supporting work on an active mobility plan, and developing an electric bike incentive program.

Building Efficiency: The work group continues to monitor progress to finalize and adopt the updated Illinois Energy Conservation Code. The work group discussed various initiatives for homeowner education regarding energy audits and home efficiency, local adoption of a building performance standard/benchmarking ordinance, local adoption of a stretch code, and the potential to use ROPE houses as demonstration energy projects.

Outreach & Education: The work group continues to work on the creation of a community newsletter to educate and inform the community on matters related to sustainability and climate action.

Commissioner Livingston left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Zero Waste: The work group is focused on improving the waste collection and recycling programs, and education/outreach efforts regarding those programs.

E. Staff Updates

1. Chair Armstrong updated the commission on sustainability initiatives included in the proposed YR2023 City Budget.

F. Other Business

1. The commission discussed establishing a quorum of the full commission at the December meeting of the Urban Ecology Work Group to take actions to spending down the YR2022 unallocated budget dollars.

G. Adjourn:

1. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.