



Sustainability Commission Urban Resilience Work Group Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 24, 2023 • 6:00 p.m.
West Conference Room, Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, 100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

A. Call to Order

1. Chairman Armstrong called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call

1. Members Present: Chairperson Tom Armstrong, Commissioners Jeff Biss, Dan Brosier, and David Jurina.

CONFIRMED A QUORUM WAS NOT PRESENT.

2. Also Present: Staff Liaison Kristin Youngmeyer, Nancy Lamia *Wild Ones*.
3. Absent: Commissioner Francisco Garcia, Dekovia Livingston, Katie Gronke, and Sharene Gould Dulabaum

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. July 27, 2023 Urban Resiliency Work Group Meeting
Tabled until September Meeting.

D. Discussion Items

1. Turf Reduction Grant Program – Application Requirements
There was discussion on how the grant would work. Commissioners present agreed to review the application and provide feedback, and research similar regional program models, and identify program successes. Ms. Nancy Lamia, with Wild Ones, stated their organization is interested in partnering with the ESC in the project outreach, consultations for native plants to be used in turf reduction, and help with preliminary grant application.
2. Channing Park No-Mow Demonstration Project
Commission members discussed the need and challenge to engage residents, and find leaders or champions of projects. From past work, this has typically been a serving ESC commissioner or grant recipient.
Other comments made included:
 - Consideration of timeline for preparing a proposal;
 - Consideration of seasonal timeline for either choosing a spring planting date or waiting to plant in the fall;

- After consultation with Wild Ones, consideration to scale back the project proposed. Starting small would allow the project to be managed with fewer volunteers, lessen the initial cost of the project, make establishing the turf reduction area, and slowly expand the area on a yearly basis;
- Need to gather more detail on how this proposed project would be maintained, and
- Consider changing the name from no mow to turf reduction. No-mow terminology seems to confuse residents verses what the project is trying to achieve with reducing turf area. Changing the name to the “Channing Park Turf Reduction Demonstrative Project”, is being considered.

Commissioners asked for direction from staff in procedure to follow in recruiting volunteers for ESC projects.

3. Urban Resiliency: Green Bonding

It was discussed to research capital cost for burying power/ communication lines to allow for further street parkway planting of trees (carbon sequestration and increase street shading reducing the heat island effect), further the resiliency of the power grid with underground protection, increase human health with a reduction in electromagnetic exposure and increasing the natural flora, allow for greater use of parkway area for complete streets and traffic calming. Look into example of Green Bonding use through MMC.

4. Commissioner Concerns: Parking Standards/Urban Heat island

To address heat islands, commission members discussed the idea of doing a parking study. Commission members identified asphalt parking as a major contributor. Commissioners discussed the review of the Municipal parking standards and how changes could reduce the amount of parking require and set limits on parking developed.

E. Public Comment

Ms. Lamia discussed with the URW the use of mini-forests and referenced a book written by Hannah Lewis, “Mini-Forest Revolution - Using the Miyazaki Method to Rapidly Rewind the World”.

F. Adjourn

Chairman Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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