

NOTICE OF SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING



Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 18, 2023 • 6:00 p.m.
West Conference Room, Edward Schock Centre of Elgin,
100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120

A. Call to Order

Chairman Armstrong called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Commissioners Tom Armstrong (Chair), Dan Brosier, Francisco Garcia, and David Jurina.

CONFIRMED A QUORUM WAS NOT PRESENT.

Also Present: Staff Liaison Kristin Youngmeyer.

Absent: Commissioners Sharene Gould Dulabaum, Jeff Biss, Katie Gronke, and Dekovia Livingston; and, Council Liaison Carol Rauschenberger.

C. Approval of August 2, 2023 Carbon Reduction Work Group Meeting Minutes

Tabled until October 10th Meeting.

D. Public Comment

No public comments were submitted.

E. Discussion Items

1. Pumpkin Smash Compost Event

Staff liaison Youngmeyer shared that the Department of Cultural Arts and Special Events confirmed the Old Library parking lot (250 N. Grove Ave) was available. Further, the availability of the following locations are being looked into, to try to find a second site on the west side of the Elgin community:

- Heritage Park, Settlers Park, Sports Complex, College Green Park, Wing Park, and Forest Preserves Paul Wolf

Commissioner Jurina shared resources and handouts for kids, and discussed the idea of brainstorming more ways to engage kids. There was also conversation on considering how to use this event to encourage or influence people to start their own composting bin at home.

2. Resident Request to Discuss Legalizing E-bikes and Scooters

In August a resident requested the Sustainability Commission discuss policy to legal personal electric vehicles (such as E-bikes, E-scooters, etc.,).

Commissioners discussed city policy should follow the state policy, as well as Kane County and Cook County policy, which in general allows e-bikes on streets and not on sidewalks. A comment was shared that the state code has several classifications of electric bikes.

Commissioners discussed looking at Cook and Kane County on regulations, to make a list of recommendations.

3. Climate Action Plan Outline for RFP

Commissioner Jurina put together a proposal of items to be included in a Climate Action Plan RFP, and recommended the following:

- For Community Engagement, develop two groups, to determine desired policy, programs, funding, initiatives, actions, and strategic goals to make up the climate action plan.

Group 1: Committee of citizen interest groups and activists.

Group 2: Appoint an Elgin steering committee with representatives from local businesses, organizations, employers, industrial trade groups, commercial trade groups, Utility Board, City staff (Planner, water department) recycling organizations, Water Department, FV reclamation district, Fraternal Order of Police and Firefighters, and City Council Member.

- Annual Funding: Committee to develop funding sources for implementing the Elgin Climate Action
- Administrative Staff: determine the make-up of the City of Elgin Sustainability Department and expertise.

4. Transportation and Active Mobility Plan

Chair Tom Armstrong drafted an Active Mobility Plan RFP. He said it was modeled after an RFP from Fort Collins, Colorado, and the draft was ready for final review and comment, and will share it at the regular Sustainability Commission meeting, to discuss. If there commission consensus, the intent is to then send the draft RFP onto staff for consideration.

5. ROPE Demonstration Net Zero

Form a list of requests for City staff. Current requests and comments are as follows:

- Request copies of energy audits for the R.O.P.E. houses from City staff; request staff reach out to the Police Department for a representative to communicate R.O.P.E. use of the project home; suggest to consider use of heat pump technology; and, clarify why there is consideration to insulate the garage.

6. Waste Hauler Contract

Pale Blue Dot issued community questionnaire, which closed on September 1st. Results are anticipated to be received in October 2023.

7. Updates on ABEEP Task Force

On August 30, Advanced Building Energy Efficiency Policy Task Force (ABEEP) met to continue discussion on codes and building performance standards, and barriers to stretch code adoption and engaging builders.

ABEEP is looking to get feedback from municipal staff by conducting interviews and a survey, to understand perceptions of the policies, barriers to adoption, and possible resources that help overcome barriers, which includes getting feedback from Elgin staff.

8. Commissioner Concerns & Brainstorming Solutions

Discussed barriers and challenges to making process on initiatives. There was discussion on considering policy or an ordinance to end use of fossil fuels.

F. **Adjourn**

Chairman Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

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