

Edwardsville Cool Cities Advisory Committee

Official Minutes for the meeting on

February 17, 2022

First Floor Conference Room, Edwardsville City Hall

Call to Order: 6:07 pm

Members Present: Jamie Henderson, Stephanie Malench, Tom Kinsella, Rachel Tompkins, Brigham Dimick

Members Absent: Brad Sauer, Kristen Pauli, Cara Lytle

Guests: Owen Luetkemeyer, SIUE, Environmental Biology Graduate Student

Citizens wishing to speak to the Commission: Owen Luetkemeyer

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call – Rachel Tompkins, Jamie Henderson, Stephanie Malench, Tom Kinsella, Brigham Dimick
3. Approval of Minutes from the January 20, 2022 Cool Cities Committee meeting JH motioned to approve, SM seconded, all in favor as amended.
4. Citizens wishing to address the Board - Owen Luetkemeyer, Environmental Biology Graduate Student at SIUE. OL has a pet project of researching parking requirements across the US. Some big cities like NYC and Seattle now have maximum requirements that are smaller than the old minimum requirements while still having a surplus of parking. The city of Peoria, IL hired Urban3 to do an economic analysis of the relative value of buildings to parking lots and roads. The found that the regions of the city that had the highest proportion of parking and the lowest land value. After the study, Peoria reversed their parking requirements. JH raised additional concern of storm water retention that comes with high parking requirements. JH How do communities reduce the existing, excessive parking? OL-its expensive to convert or reverse parking lots. SM- Can we disincentive reserved parking that mostly stands empty? Current ordinance is a parking space for every 300 sq ft. For every 1.5 employees, they need one parking space. For restaurants the requirement is one parking lot for every two seats. Downtown if you are within 300' of public parking, you do not need to provide parking. Edwardsville requires .2 bike parking for every car parking space. RT – How should we change our ordinance? Turn our minimum amount of parking into our maximum? RT -suggests that OL make a presentation to city council. JH – Would it be a good next step to meet with Caleb and Emily and Will to learn the ordinances before the next action? – Could we influence the new development on the NW corner of Plum St and Governor's Parkway to have more green space? TK – best to form a partnership with the city since they have a deeper political understanding BD – in presentation make a brief PowerPoint that shows the evidence of less parking results in higher real estate prices. OL – The I-55 corridor plan has more sustainable design that makes it more walkable and more sustainable than areas within the city. RT – Let's make a recommendation to relax the parking minimums with new developments. OL – In response to the 2013 flood, the village of Grafton reclaimed flood plain which addressed the problem successfully. RT – We should suggest to the city that they change parking space ordinances to decrease the maximum, make it harder to buyout the 4% greenspace clause, and consider permeable paving or rain gardens.

5. Announcements - 1. The CC committee agreed to write a letter of support for Mary Grose' for The Good Dirt Community Garden. 2. Meeting with Will Krause scheduled on Feb. 24th.
6. Old Business
 - A. Plum Creek Greenspace – The Plum Street property was purchased by The Staenberg Group. Stephanie's ad hoc group gave many presentations to boards, to City Council, attended the opening of the bids (only one bid). The bid has to go through Facilities and then Finance & Government and then to the County Board. 6 of 28 board members live in the city of Edwardsville. Petition was reopened Monday night to ask the city to not approve the sale of the property. The city does not have 3.8 million dollars to purchase the Plum Street property. Will Krause presented maps of green space around the city to develop a plan to protect those areas. RT – there is a 4% greenspace but comes with a buyout. If there are multiple owners – Planned Unit Development – there will be more hoops to jump through.
 - B. Republic Services – Recycling at Public Events – Tabled until Cara and/or Kristin are present.
7. New Business
 - A. Parking Requirements A conversation ensued how we can be most helpful in partnering with the city to realize the sustainability plan. The CC Committee is dedicated to leading with education to inform sustainable ordinances.

SM – There are propane tanks – both full and empty – that have been sitting for a long time – owned by Ferrell Gas, behind the new Mark's Appliance. Ferrell Gas stated they will not remove tanks unless forced by the city. A concerned citizen has been investigating this and states there is an ordinance against above ground propane tanks. He also asserted that the ground water has been contaminated. OL – Great Rivers Environmental Law takes on such causes. RT – IL EPA could help.
 - B. Honor Ginger McCall – She brought recycling to Edwardsville, and served in the League of Womens Voters. RT wants to first glean more information before honoring her before City Council.
8. Adjournment 7:37pm
9. Next Meeting – March 17 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 118 Hillsboro Avenue

Rachel V. Touppkins