



— City of Elgin —

Mayor
Ed Schock

Council Members
Richard Dunne
Robert Gilliam
David Kaptain
John Prigge
John Steffen
Michael Warren

City Manager
Sean R. Stegall

March 1, 2010

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Sean R. Stegall, City Manager

From: David Lawry, General Services Group Director
Urban Design Working Group

Subject: Sustainable City Master Plan Semi-Annual Report

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Mayor and Members of the City Council with information regarding the Elgin Sustainable City Master Plan, and the progress made by the Urban Design working group.

Group Membership

The following individuals are members of the Urban Design working group:

Tom Armstrong – Chair
Brian Anderson
Barton Barrow
William Briska
Anthony Pedote
Robert Siljestrom
Jennifer Fritz-Williams
David Waden
Pat Curran – Advisory Board Liaison

Goals

Shorter Term Goals/Initiatives (policy/code):

- Update the 2005 Comprehensive Plan and Design Guidelines (participate in & monitor on-going work in Community Development Department & CNU/ITE/Elgin Project)
- Update 2000 Parks Master Plan (participate in & monitor on-going work to update the Parks Master Plan)
- Update 2000 Riverfront Center City Master Plan
- Adopt a ‘complete streets’ policy
- Adopt a ‘context sensitive solutions’ policy
- Adopt an ‘inclusionary housing’ policy

- Adopt conservation codes for natural and architectural resources
- Adopt a concept plan (model) for the arrangement, use and appearance of buildings, structures and exterior spaces within neighborhoods (participate in & monitor on-going work in Community Development Department/Comprehensive Plan)
- Update development codes and ordinances
- Adopt form-based development regulations
- Develop a targeted and strategic approach to infill development and redevelopment

Longer Term Goals/Initiatives (implementation):

- Brownfield/greyfield redevelopment
- Focus on centers and corridors
- Focus on green infrastructure
- Focus on transit supportive development and the redesign of the commuter bus system
- Promote the development of complete neighborhoods which contain a variety of uses and building types
- Maintain a good balance of jobs, housing and service

Relevant Discussion Items

The discussions in our work group have been focused on establishing our vision for a Sustainable Elgin from an ‘urban design’ point of view ... think more urban, more connected, more natural. We arrived at the mission and vision statements listed below:

Mission Statement:

To promote an urban design framework for a sustainable Elgin that is more livable, more respectful of nature, more connected, more prosperous, more compact, safer, and with a stronger sense of place.

Vision for a Sustainable Elgin:

More Livable: Elgin’s urban form will make the city a desirable place to experience, offering a variety of places in which to live, work, shop, and play as high-quality environments.

More Respectful of Nature: Elgin’s urban form will support efficient and sustainable rural and natural resources.

More Connected: Elgin’s urban form with its highly interconnected street and transit networks will make it be easy to move about, and be bicycle and pedestrian friendly.

More Prosperous: Elgin’s urban form with its focus on centers, corridors, neighborhoods, and districts will contribute to economic growth and prosperity.

More Compact: Elgin’s urban form will be compact, with an intensification of land uses structured on a framework of centers, corridors, neighborhoods and districts.

Safer: Elgin’s urban form will make it a safer place to be with well-designed buildings, outdoor spaces, and the connections between them.

Stronger Sense of Place: Elgin will be a beautiful and memorable city, celebrating and building on its sense of place, regional city status, natural features and parks, arts and culture, and its architecture and heritage.

Group Focus for the Upcoming Quarter

Our focus in the upcoming quarter will be on recommending revisions to key policy documents consistent with our vision for a Sustainable Elgin. In particular, we will monitor and support the work of the Community Development Group to update the 2005 Comprehensive Plan and Design Guidelines, and monitor and support the work of the Parks and Recreation Department to update the 2000 Parks Master Plan. We will also monitor and support other ongoing planning and urban design efforts, including: 1) Elgin/CNU/ITE Urban Thoroughfare/Connectivity Project and 2) National Street/METRA Transit Oriented Development Study.

TJA