

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

4:30 PM

City Hall, 301 E. Huron St., 2nd Floor, Council Chambers

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Peter Allen, Catherine Riseng, and Liz Rother

Absent 3 - Michael Garfield, Commissioner Laura Rubin, and Carsten Hohnke

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Bloomer, that the Agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Scio Township Land Preservation Priorities - Bruce Manny, Scio Land Preservation Board and Bary Lonik, Consultant

Bruce Manny of the Scio Township Land Preservation Board presented a memo and slides of Scio Township's land preservation properties that are preserved and potential properties that they would like to try and preserve. He said that they have closed on nine properties so far and plan to follow up with high priority properties in the near future.

Present 7 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, Carsten Hohnke, Catherine Riseng, and Liz Rother

Absent 1 - Michael Garfield

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairperson Ezekiel welcomed Liz Rother to the commission and informed the public that a vacancy was available on the board and encouraged the public to apply. The opening on the commission is for an at-large member. Applications can be obtained from the Mayor's Office.

Mr. Ezekiel also announced the passing of Don Botsford. Mr. Botsford was a champion in land preservation and lived for many years in poverty rather than sell his properties to developers. He introduced generations of young Ann Arborites to trampolining and gymnastics at the Ann Arbor Gym Cana for 30 years and then moved out to the woods and started the Botsford Recreation Preserve and the Botsford Nature Preserve. Scio Township currently holds the development rights to the Botsford Nature Preserve.

Present 8 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, Carsten Hohnke, Catherine Riseng, and Liz Rother

PUBLIC COMMENTARY PUBLIC COMMENTARY (4 SPEAKERS MAXIMUM - 5 MINUTE SPEAKING TIME - SIGN UP MUST TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO THE MEETING BY NOTIFYING THE CHAIR OR CITY STAFF. THIS SECTION OF PUBLIC COMMENTARY IS LIMITED TO ITEMS RELATED TO THE AGENDA.)

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[11-0862](#)

Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2011

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Rubin, that the meeting minutes of March 9, 2011 be approved by the Commission with minor changes and forwarded to the City Council for filing. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [11-0852](#) Greenbelt Boundary

Ginny Trocchio addressed the commission regarding the Greenbelt Boundary. They looked at maps that showed land that has already been protected and that showed natural features as well as the Huron River watershed. Modifications to the greenbelt were not made in Lodi or Salem Townships. One recommendation from the subcommittee was to square off those two township boundaries in order to meet the other boundaries. Another recommendation was to create buffering areas around the existing greenbelt area.

The board discussed the presentation in more detail.

Commissioner Rubin expressed concern with expansion of the greenbelt and using city monies to fund it. She said that there may be criticism from the public for protecting properties outside of the city limits.

Commissioner Garfield said that it was a good idea to take advantage of protecting other properties. He added that when valuable properties become available it is beneficial to add them to the greenbelt. Citizens expected them to protect natural areas close to the city. If there are opportunities to protect land near an established boundary, he thought that was worth expanding the boundaries.

Commissioner Allen said that the further you get away from the downtown the lower the development pressures are. He said that it is a longer drive from the downtown area and less likely to be developed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Riseng to go with Option 2.

Commissioner Bloomer said that he would like to have more time to consider the options presented at the meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hohnke, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that consideration of the greenbelt boundary be postponed until 8/10/2011. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

2. Election of Officers

A motion was made by Councilmember Hohnke, seconded by Commissioner Riseng, to nominate Commissioner Ezekiel Chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission for one year. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

Election of Officers

A motion was made by Commissioner Ezekiel, seconded by Councilmember Hohnke, to nominate Commissioner Riseng Vice Chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission for one year. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

3. Staff Update

Ms. Trocchio said that she received notice of the acceptance of a 2011 Farm and Ranch Grant in the amount of \$312,620.00 for the Lindemen-Weidmeyer Farm in Lodi Township. City Council approved the grant and Lindemen-Weidmeyer property would be considered by city council at a later date.

Ms. Trocchio received notice today that Governor Snyder has signed the Preservation Bill which is now Public Act 79. This act provides incentives for farmers to pay defaulted PA116 agreements, which goes into the state farmland preservation program.

Ms. Trocchio said that she would be sending out an email to find out which commissioners would be available for the meeting in August. If there are not enough commissioners available for the month of August, the meeting would be rescheduled to a later date.

Commissioner Ezekiel announced that a ceremony took place out at the Braun Farm where they gave certificates to farmers who participated in preserving land recently. The Mayor attended and also gave a speech as well. Mr. Ezekiel commended Jeff McCabe and Lisa Gotlib for completing their hoopla program which was to build 15 hoop houses within 20 days. He said that hundreds of people participated in the building of the hoop houses.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None presented.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY (5 MINIMUTE MAXIMUM SPEAKING TIME - NO
LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SPEAKING IN THIS SECTION.)**

None.

CLOSED SESSION - TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION

A motion was made by Commissioner Rubin, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the Commission enter into closed session to discuss land acquisition. On roll call, the vote was as follows, with the Chair declaring the motion carried (The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.):

Yeas: 8 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Garfield, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Allen, Councilmember Hohnke, Commissioner Riseng, and Commissioner Rother

Nays: 0

MEETING RECONVENED

A motion was made by Commissioner Rubin, seconded by Commissioner Garfield, that the meeting be that the meeting reconvene. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 6:15 p.m.

Application No. 2011-03

A motion was made by Commissioner Rother, seconded by Councilmember Hohnke, to recommend to City Council to partner with Webster Township on the property identified in application no. 2011-03 and to contribute up to \$121,365 towards the purchase of development rights due to the property's proximity to the protected properties. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

Application No. 2011-02

A motion was made by Commissioner Rother, seconded by Commissioner Bloomer, motion to recommend to City Council to partner with Ann Arbor Township on the property identified in application no. 2011-02 and to contribute up to \$49,500 towards for purchase of development rights. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Riseng, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Dan Ezekiel, Chairperson

Anissa R. Bowden
Recording Secretary