



# City of Ann Arbor

## Meeting Minutes

### Environmental Commission

301 E. Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
[http://a2gov.legistar.com/  
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Thursday, August 23, 2018

5:00 PM

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St,  
Basement, conference room

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#### Special Meeting

#### CALL TO ORDER

*Chair Needham called the meeting to order at 5pm.*

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 9 - Christopher L. Graham, Susan Hutton, Allison Skinner, Robert Needham, Chip Smith, Karie Slavik, John Mirsky, Mike Appel, and Anne Bannister

**Absent:** 4 - Joshua Rego, Shannan Gibb-Randall, John Callewaert, and Stephen C Brown

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, that the agenda be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

#### PUBLIC COMMENTARY

*Joe Ohren from the Ann Arbor chapter of Elders Climate Action spoke about the group's solid waste pilot project "More Compost! More Carts!" funded with a Sustaining Ann Arbor Together program grant.*

#### Re-Introduction to Solid Waste Resources Management Plan and Associated Process

*Cresson Slotten, City of Ann Arbor, provided a brief introduction to the purpose of the Solid Waste Resources Management Plan and introduced the project team. He spoke about several external, internal, and societal changes that have impacted the Solid Waste Program like the Great Recession, the percent of Ann Arbor workers who live in the City, the number of contracts the City monitors, the status of the Materials Recovery Facility, the loss of a local print newspaper, regionalization, etc. The review of the process included: RFP released, interviews undertaken,*

*and consultant chosen (APTIM). [The video for this item runs between 4:50-21:20.]*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Project background**

*Christina Seibert, APTIM, provided an overview of the SWRMP project approach, including reviewing project schedule, preliminary dates for future presentations to the Commission, and key deliverables. Ms. Seibert also reviewed project tasks currently underway and progress completed to date. This presentation was followed by a facilitated question and answer session with the Commission including items such as: regionalization issues, expiring solid waste contracts, the status of the MRF, and alternatives to shipping recyclables out of state. [The video for this item runs between 21:20-54:30.]*

### **18-1593 Solid Waste Plan Update Slides**

**Attachments:** 2018-08-23 EC Meeting slides.pdf

### **SWRMP Vision / Priorities**

*Charlie Fleetham, Project Innovations, provided a summary of the 16 stakeholder interviews conducted to-date for the project, highlighting stakeholder perspectives on current programs and services and desires for future strategies to be addressed through the SWRMP. He outlined some strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the City's solid waste program. This was followed by a facilitated discussion to identify Commission's top priorities and critical success factors they envision for the SWRMP. Some of these priorities include: move-out services, year-round organics collection, and partnering with local large organizations for collaboration. Perceived weaknesses include: no single point of contact for solid waste in the City, underresourced solid waste staffing and expertise, lack of accurate information (such as diversion rate and financials), reporting, and a clear understanding of staff responsibilities and accountability. Commissioners recommended the following needs and opportunities: a cost of service analysis, additional education, year-round composting, and clear options with financial impacts. Commissioners want the plan to be implementable, and include details: about how much things cost and how they would work, common sense information that residents want, explanation of local markets, proposed changes to state and federal policy, how San Francisco got to*

*such a high diversion rate, frank feedback from the consultants, clear outcome-based targets and actions to get there, more short-term goals before achieving a zero waste goal, how to expand composting, and specific timelines and details, and how to have a sustainable organization. Questions were raised about the need for the scientific survey and whether it is needed. Commissioners also expressed concern that the plan may not provide any new information. [The video for this item runs between 54:50-1:46:00.]*

#### **Discussion of Solid Waste/Recycling Program Area Status Update from July 20, 2018**

*Cresson Sloten answered questions from Commissioners including the need for year-end financials.*

**18-1594** Resolution Authorizing the City of Ann Arbor to be Listed as a Supporting Municipality in an Amicus Brief regarding fuel standards

**Attachments:** Resolution Authorizing the City of Ann Arbor to be Listed as a Supporting Municipality in an Amicus Brief regarding fuel standards.docx

**A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Skinner, that the Resolution be Approved by the Commission. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

*There was no public commentary.*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Needham adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm.*

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**City Clerk's Office  
301 E. Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

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