

City of Ann Arbor

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

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

4:30 PM

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

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Ezekiel called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. in Council Chambers, 301 E. Huron Street.

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Commissioner Laura Rubin, and Liz Rother

Absent 3 - Peter Allen, Carsten Hohnke, and Catherine Riseng

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

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.)

Jack Smiley, volunteer with the Southeast Land Conservancy, serving on the Land Protection Committee, said that they are very excited about the possibility of partnering with the Greenbelt Program and the Washtenaw Natural Area Program and protecting additional land in the area known as the Superior Greenway. Washtenaw County, the Greenbelt Program, Superior Township and the Conservancy have already protected over 1800 acres of land over the years in the Superior Greenway, which is between Ann Arbor and Detroit. Mr. Smiley said that they hoped to protect even more land within that same area.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1 [11-1436](#) Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2011

A motion was made by Commissioner Bloomer, seconded by Commissioner Garfield, that the Greenbelt Advisory Meeting Minutes of October 12, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

1 [11-1437](#) Staff Update - Bus Tour

Ginny Trocchio of The Conservation Fund updated dated the commission regarding the application of Shannon Brines to become a member of the Commission. His application for appointment to the Commission will be considered at the next regular session of City Council. Mr. Brines should be confirmed in time for the December Greenbelt meeting.

Ms. Trocchio updated council on the Greenbelt Bus tour that took place after the last commission meeting. The tour was very well attended with a little over 30 people attending. Feedback from the public was great. A lot of them did not know much about the Greenbelt or farming so she felt that the right group of people were targeted. A letter was received from Stephanie Buttrey thanking them for organizing an informative tour.

Ms. Trocchio said that she has also heard that people are signing up for another tour next year, even though a date has not been set. So the word is getting out to Ann Arbor residents. They really enjoyed meeting some of the land owners they have worked with. They have talked about other ways to have that same kind of interaction just without doing a tour. One suggestion was having a discussion at the library with some of the land owners they have worked with.

Commissioner Garfield suggested adding a discussion topic to an agenda to discuss and come up with more ways to notify the public of what the greenbelt is doing and is all about.

2 **Appraisal Policy**

Ms. Trocchio said that they have heard from the farm and ranch grants and the deadline has been set for February. This is the time of year where they would want to get properties, appraisals and applications lined up to meet the deadline. In particular, with the pending potential boundary expansion that will be going to Council in December, if those are approved there could be more land owners that may be interested and they could possibly get more applications. The time frame to get those applications and appraisals started is going to be tight.

Ms. Trocchio said she talked with the executive committee about getting approval to direct staff so that they could move forward on some of those appraisals if the applications come in that would be qualified for farm and ranch grants and that meet their strategic objectives. They would then come to the commission for formal approval.

Commissioner Ezekiel clarified that The Conservation Fund would like to get permission to move forward with an appraisal without the Commission specifically asking the Conservation Fund to do a particular appraisal because of the tight time schedule to get properties ready for FFRP applications.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rother, seconded by Commissioner Bloomer, that the Commission authorize Ms. Trocchio to move ahead with the appraisals as needed by December 31, 2011. On a roll call, the vote was as follows with the Chair declaring the motion carried:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Garfield, Commissioner Rubin, and Commissioner Rother

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Allen, Councilmember Hohnke, and Commissioner Riseng

OLD BUSINESS

1 [11-1311](#) 2012 Meeting Calendar Poll

Ms. Trocchio said that she passed out a meeting calendar poll previously to the commission. The survey shows that Thursdays seemed to be the best as well as the worst for people. There were problems with people getting here before 5 p.m. on Thursdays. She said that they could keep the meetings on Wednesdays and meet from 5-6:30 p.m.

The commission decided to tentatively set the new meeting dates to the first Thursday of the month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and postponed further discussion at the next meeting of the commission.

Referred to the Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC) due back on 12/14/2011

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None presented.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

None.

RECESS

The Chair declared a recess at 4:58 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 5:13 p.m. Commissioner Rising arrived during the recess.

Present 6 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Catherine Riseng, and Liz Rother

Absent 2 - Peter Allen, and Carsten Hohnke

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Rubin, that the Commission enter into Closed session to discuss land Acquisition. On a roll call, the vote was as follows with the Chair declaring the motion carried (The meeting recessed at 5:14 p.m.):

Yeas: 6 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Garfield, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Riseng, and Commissioner Rother

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Allen, and Councilmember Hohnke

MEETING RECONVENED

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Rother, that the meeting reconvene. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 6:02 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

6:02 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Rubin, that the meeting adjourn. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Dan Ezekiel, Chairperson

**Anissa R. Bowden
Recording Secretary**