

City of Ann Arbor

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

Thursday, May 3, 2012

4:30 PM

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

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ezekiel called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. in the Guy C. Larcom, Jr. Building, 2nd Floor Council Chambers, 301 E. Huron St.

ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Catherine Riseng, Liz Rother, and Shannon Brines

Absent 3 - Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, and Carsten Hohnke

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Bloomer, that the meeting 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.)

None.

A APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A-1 12-0816 Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2012

A motion was made by Commissioner Riseng, seconded by Commissioner Bloomer, that the Minutes of February 2, 2012 be approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

B OLD BUSINESS

None.

C NEW BUSINESS

C-1 12-0611 Updating Strategic Plan

Commissioner Ezekiel said that the Strategic Plan has been updated a number of times and that there has been some interest in forming a subcommittee to take another look at the plan. Commissioner Allen has volunteered to lead the

subcommittee and Commissioners Brines and Rubin said they would serve on the committee. Commissioner Ezekiel asked if the commission had any charge for the subcommittee or any issues that they would like the committee to consider.

Ginny Trocchio of the Conservation Fund gave a slide presentation of the Strategic Planning Process. She talked about the back ground of the planning process, what the current strategy was, what has been accomplished and the process for updating the plan. A copy of the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office. The commission discussed the strategic planning process in more detail.

Received and Filed

- C-2 12-0612** Resolution In Recognition of Commissioner Michael Garfield for His Commitment to the Greenbelt Advisory Commission and Land Preservation Efforts in Washtenaw County

Commissioner Bloomer presented and read into record a resolution recognizing Commissioner Mike Garfield for his commitment to the Greenbelt Advisory Commission and Land Preservation efforts in Washtenaw County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bloomer, seconded by Brines, that the Resolution to recognize Commissioner Michael Garfield for his commitment to the Greenbelt Advisory Commission be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

C-3 Staff Updates

Ms. Trocchio updated the commission on FRPP developments. The following properties were closed on in April:

*The Lakeside Development Property in Superior Township - 100 Acres
The Newton Property in Ann Arbor Township - 63 Acres
The Joe Block Property in Ann Arbor Township - 23 Acres
Conservation Easement on the Boyd Property in Northville Township - 136 Acres*

The closings have preserved over 300 acres, and the total acres preserved in the greenbelt is now over 3700 acres.

Ms. Trocchio said they still have not heard from Farm and Ranch about the grants that were submitted. She knew that there were over 30 applications submitted, totaling over \$5 million.

Commissioner Ezekiel said that a farm lecture took place recently. It was an amazing community event. He added that Commissioner Brine's places had a booth there and was a partial sponsor of the event. The speaker said a lot of things that were challenging that people would have to go home and ponder about some more. The slide presentation showed many different land preservation and small grower initiatives going in the area.

D NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- D-1 Special Presentation by Susan Lackey, Executive Director of Legacy Land Conservancy**

E REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

COMMISSIONER ROTHER

Commissioner Rother said that they have come further along with ideas and hope to present them to the commission at a later date.

F COMMUNICATIONS

None.

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

Thomas Partridge, Ann Arbor resident, addressed the commission regarding the need for commissions and committees of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County to look beyond the narrow scope of discipline of just land and farm preservation and look toward the need to combine preserving land with buildings to make more affordable housing in the areas.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Bloomer, that the meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Dan Ezekiel, Chair

Anissa R. Bowden
Recording Secretary