

City of Ann Arbor

100 N. Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

4:30 PM

County Building, 220 N. Main St.

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Hall called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. in the County Board of Commissioners Meeting Room, 220 S. Main Street.

ROLL CALL

Present 8 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Jennifer Santi Hall, Gilbert S. Omenn, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, and Catherine Riseng
Absent 1 - Carsten Hohnke

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Duane Thomas addressed the Commission regarding his PDR application for property that he owns on the corner of Scio Church and Wagner Roads which consists of 30 acres. Mr. Thomas provided background information on his property. He said that the location is very good for selling fresh market vegetables and was a market garden for several years back in the 90's. Mr. Thomas thanked the Commission for considering his application.

(Commissioner Hohnke arrived at 4:38 p.m.)

Present 9 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Jennifer Santi Hall, Gilbert S. Omenn, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, Carsten Hohnke, and Catherine Riseng

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Commissioner Garfield, that the agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10-1069 Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2010

A motion was made by Commissioner Rubin, seconded by Commissioner Omenn, that the Minutes September 8, 2010 be approved by the Commission and forwarded to City Council for filing. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **10-1188** Resolution Acknowledging Above and Beyond Efforts to Complete the Charles and Catherine Braun Conservation Easement

Ginny Trocchio of The Conservation Fund announced that they closed on the Braun Property on Whitmore Lake Road on October 8, 2010. The closing on this property is very significant because the farm is one of the largest farms (286 acres) that have been protected to date. That brings to total acres of land being protected 2150 acres.

Commission Hall presented a Resolution acknowledging The Conservation Fund's efforts to complete the Charles and Catherine Braun Conservation Easement and read it into the record. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rubin, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the Resolution be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

2. **Farm and Ranch Protection Program and PA 116 Agreements**

Ms. Trocchio explained the Farm and Ranch Protection Program and PA 116 Agreements to the commission. She said that discussions had taken place as to whether or not PA 116 properties were eligible for FRPP grants. The Farm and Ranch Protection Program, as a part of their scoring criteria, include points for PA 116 properties. Eight out of the eleven properties that the City has, has been enrolled in PA 116. This was never an issue in the past and is just now coming up. The question is whether or not these properties are eligible for FRPP grants and they have come back and stated that yes, PA 116 properties can be enrolled in FRPP grants. The second question is whether or not being enrolled in PA 116 any implications on the value determination. This question is still being discussed and an official determination has not been given yet.

Ms. Trocchio said that this will have an impact on City properties as well as township properties that the city has partnered with and she wanted the Commission to be aware of this because it could have a significant impact the amount that FRPP could grant for those properties.

Commissioner Hall said that she talked with Ms. Trocchio last week and they decided that she would gather more information about this, possibly talking to other organizations which may be facing similar situations. Once the information is gathered Ms. Trocchio may come back to the commission to talk about how the commission could strategize and take a position on the issue.

3. **10-1070** Greenbelt Outreach Plan

Commissioner Ezekiel presented the Greenbelt Outreach Plan to the Commission. The idea was to recognize that land acquisition of PDR acquisition of the Greenbelt program would slow down. The Greenbelt has another responsibility which is keep the public informed and to keep the public and stakeholders informed about the Greenbelt. He said that he would like to include this in the Strategic Plan, the next time the plan is updated.

Mr. Ezekiel went on to state that they are doing outreach, they have signs up, and have participated in the HomeGrown Festival. There are additional areas where they could give information to the public and also solicit feedback from the public.

Chair Hall read the following motion into the record: Motion to incorporate an outreach strategy as a priority into the Strategic Plan to 1) inform and educate stakeholders about the Greenbelt program and 2) answer questions and address concerns from stakeholders. Also to further direct staff and Commissioners to incorporate outreach deliverables into the work plan and report the status of items in the next Activity Report. (A copy of the motion is on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

A motion was made by Commissioner Ezekiel, seconded by Commissioner Rubin, to incorporate an outreach strategy as a priority into the Strategic Plan to 1.) inform and educate stakeholders about the Greenbelt program and to 2.) answer questions and address concerns from stakeholders. Also to further direct staff and Commissioners to incorporate outreach deliverables into the work plan and report the status of items in the next Activity Report. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

4. 10-1072 Agriculture Products

Chair Hall provided information regarding Agricultural Products as they relate to small farms and local food. She said that the concept is to explain to people what it is that the Greenbelt program is actually preserving and how that fits into the local food movement that is currently going on. We have a lot of interested in our own community about local foods. We have a HomeGrown Festival, a Real Time Farm and people who love our Farmer's Market; so how does the Greenbelt fit into that and how does what we're preserving fit into that? She added that It's important to understand the differences between the small and large farms and what is being grown on the farms as it relates to local foods.

Ms. Trocchio presented information regarding Farm Products to the Commission. She explained that the Park Advisory Commission (PAC) has interviewed farmers that we have easements on and has compiled a list of what is produced on each of those farms and of those products what is sold locally. The idea would be to map out where the products are being sold in and out of Washtenaw County.

Ms. Trocchio also provided information regarding the 2007 Census of Agriculture and Michigan Food and Agricultural Systems Profiles to the Commission (Copies are on file in the City Clerk's Office.). Additional information would be provided to the Commission at a later date.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

Invitation extended to Jeff McCabe and Lisa Gotlieb to come and discuss the SELMA Breakfast Cafe face

Investment Income Matt Horning, City Treasurer

REPORTS FROM STAFF

2011 MEETINGS

Ms. Trocchio said that the only other days that worked for the Commission to work was Thursday's. Therefore, the Commission would continue to meet on the second

Wednesday of each month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Hall formally apologized to the public and to the Ann Arbor Chronicle about improperly adjourning meetings. She said that it is right for the Commission to come back into the meeting room where the regular session was held and adjourn from there whether or not there is action to be taken after a closed session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, 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 and the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Yeas: 9 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Garfield, Commissioner Santi Hall, Commissioner Omenn, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Allen, Councilmember Hohnke, and Commissioner Riseng

Nays: 0

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, 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 and the meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Yeas: 9 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Garfield, Commissioner Santi Hall, Commissioner Omenn, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Allen, Councilmember Hohnke, and Commissioner Riseng

Nays: 0

MEETING RECONVENED

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

Motion #1

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Ezekiel, that a Resolution to recommended to Council to partner with Ann Arbor Township on the property identified in application #2007-20 and to appropriate funds in the amount of 50% of the remaining or \$139,740.00, due to the adjacency to protected properties, prime soils and township partnerships

be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Bloomer, that the meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.