

City of Ann Arbor

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

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

4:30 PM

County Building, 220 N. Main St.

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Hall called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Board Room, located at 220 N Main St.

ROLL CALL

Present 7 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Jennifer Santi Hall, Laura Rubin, Carsten Hohnke, and Catherine Riseng
Absent 2 - Gilbert S. Omenn, and Peter Allen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Tom Freeman, Washtenaw County Parks

Tom Freeman, Deputy Director of Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation provided an overview of the updated County Ordinance as it pertains to their Natural Area Preservation land acquisition program. County Commissioners revised the County Ordinance in 2010. The ordinance establishes and governs the Natural Area Preservation Program which the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation is responsible for implementing. The real change to the ordinance was to acknowledge that in the course of looking at properties in the first nine years of the program. Washtenaw County acquired 2000 acres in the first year. Mr. Freeman provided a copy of the ordinance to the commission.

(Commissioner Omenn arrived at 4:48 p.m.)

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

Motion #1 - Letter of Support for Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation's Application to the Michigan Trust Fund

Commissioner Hohnke said that it would be important for the commission to receive some input from the City's Planning staff, realizing that the letter does not indicate monetary support. He added that the Natural Resources Trust Fund has limited funds and it was his understanding that there is a consideration of the amount of funds that would be allocated to a particular geographical area. The City has two other applications that they plan to submit for Natural Resources Trust Fund monies and the application by the County would dilute the application from this area in general. He concluded by stating that the commission should request the input of the City Planning staff to make sure that it is consistent and in alignment with the overall object of the City and their request of that trust fund.

Commissioner Hall said that this was not the first time the commission had

considered this application. It is the first time officially considering it, but it had been discussed in closed sessions previously and the Commission knew that it was coming. The reason she brought the letter forward to the commission was based on previous discussions with the Commission.

The Commission asked that a copy of the letter be send to each member at a later date.

Note: Should the landowner in this case have sufficient means to consider a donation the commission would appreciate their doing so. The Commission is not indicating their support of the purchase of this property. They are simply recommending that this application of the trust fund be approved. They may at a later date consider a contribution from the City of Ann Arbor on this property and may have more questions and request more information at that time.

The Commission discussed the recommendation in further detail.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ezekiel, seconded by Councilmember Hohnke, to recommend to Council to consider a letter of support for Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation's application to the Michigan Trust Fund for the purchase of theDF Land Holidngs Property in Ann Arbor Township. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

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

1. 11-0313 Greenbelt Advisory Commission meeting minutes of February 9, 2011

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Omenn, that the Meeting Minutes of February 9,2011 be approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bloomer informed the Commission that Governor Snyder is proposing to eliminate all special tax credits, including the State's PA116 program. This would make it very difficult for farmers to be able to afford to farm, in particular those closer to an urban area. He encoured Commissioners to contact their senators and representatives if they feel inclined to voice their opinions.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None presented at this time.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Omenn, 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 adjourned at 5:30 p.m.)

Yeas: 8 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Garfield, Commissioner Santi Hall, Commissioner Omenn, Rubin, Councilmember Hohnke, and Commissioner Riseng

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Allen

MEETING RECONVENED

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Rubin, that the meeting reconvene. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rubin, seconded by Commissioner Riseng, that the meeting adjourn. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Dan Ezekiel, Co-Chairperson

Anissa R. Bowden
Recording Secretary