

# City of Ann Arbor

100 N. Fifth Avenue  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
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## Action Minutes

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

4:30 PM

City Council Chamber

**Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Laura Rubin officially called the meeting to order at 4:46 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 100 N. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present** 6 - Tom Bloomer; Dan Ezekiel; Michael Garfield; Gilbert S. Omenn; Laura Rubin and Sylvia M. Taylor

**Absent** 2 - Jennifer Hall and Christopher S. Easthope

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

1. Julie Frost - Greenstone Farm Credit Services

*Julie Frost, Senior Officer of Greenstone Farm Credit Services, addressed the commission regarding sales in farm land and what's going on with the economy. Ms. Frost answered questions regarding how land is purchased and how active the market is in Ann Arbor and surrounding areas.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

1. [08-0260](#) Tom Freeman - Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program Map

*Tom Freeman, addressed the commission regarding the Biltmore Superior LLC and Biltmore Geddes East LLC parcels under consideration. He passed out and explained a map of proposed land acquisitions in Superior Township. A copy of the map is on file in the City Clerk's Office. Mr. Freeman thanked the commission for their participation in the purchase and protection of the Fox Science Preserve and expressed an interest to collaborate with the commission in the future.*

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. [08-0216](#) Greenbelt Advisory Commission Minutes of January 9, 2008

**A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Omenn, that the Minutes be approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council, and placed on their 3/17/2008 agenda. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

2. [08-0217](#) Greenbelt Advisory Commission Minutes of January 15, 2008

**A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, that the Minutes be approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council, and placed on their 4/7/2008 agenda. On a voice vote, the Mayor**

declared the motion carried.

## RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Commissioner Garfield, that the be that the Commission enter into a Closed Session to discuss pending land acquisitions. On roll call, the vote was as follows, with the Chair declaring the motion carried:

**Yeas:** 6 - Commissioner Bloomer; Commissioner Ezekiel; Commissioner Garfield; Commissioner Omenn; Commissioner Rubin and Commissioner Taylor

**Nays:** 0

**Absent:** 3 - Commissioner Hall; Councilmember Easthope and POSITION

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Staff Update

*Peg Kohring spoke to the commission regarding their Strategic Planning Workshop held earlier this year and five major themes were suggested.*

*Theme One - Talk to banks about properties that they may have recently acquired. Commissioner Berriz and Rubin were willing to make contact with banks to schedule future meetings. Tom Crawford also know some of the banks and is also willing to facilitate meetings. Geographical Information System staff is also working with Ms. Kohring to overlap where delinquent tax properties are within the greenbelt and will talk with banks about those properties as well.*

*Theme Two - Map of the expanded greenbelt area. The map depicts where complexes are located. She said she would email copies of to the commission if desired.*

*Theme Three - Value and how we offer value on greenbelt properties. Staff talked with the City Attorney's Office. The assistant city attorney said that the current commission's process that is in place is a good operating process and had no problems with it. If farm and ranch land is involved, the land owner would be appraised of the fair market value, but the commission could offer less than fair market value for the property.*

*Theme four - The subcommittee for communication with City Council. The sub committees have not met, but will meet directly after the Greenbelt Meeting this evening.*

*Theme five - Finances and Alternative Funding Options.  
City Finance staff have provided a list of possibilities city attorney has been in the process of reviewing. As soon as the list is complete, a meeting will be held to discuss it.*

*The Commission asked to have the info sent to them electronically.*

**NEXT AGENDA ITEMS**

**None presented at the meeting.**

**REPORT FROM COMMITTEES**

**None.**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Commission Member Update**

*Commissioner Rubin gave an update on a new representative to replacing Albert Berriz on the Commission. She asked if 4 o'clock would be a better meeting time for the Commission. The commission would consider this request and make a decision at a later meeting.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Commissioner Garfield, that the Meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.**