



City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Meeting Minutes Energy Commission

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

6:00 PM City Hall, 301 E. Huron St. 2nd Floor Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Macomber and Hookham arrived after Roll.

Present: 9 - Charles Hookham, Wayne Appleyard, David A. Wright, Kenneth J. Wadland, Brigit Macomber, Mark Clevey, Erik Eibert, Elizabeth Gibbons, and Shoshannah Lenski

Absent: 2 - John Hieftje, and Mike Shriberg

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

14-0759

Minutes of the April 8, 2014 Ann Arbor Energy Commission Meeting

Attachments: Energy Commission Minutes 4-8-14.pdf

Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council due back on 8/18/2014

PUBLIC INPUT

None

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Earth Day highlighted (acknowledging help from Shriberg, Kurz)
Green Fair 6-9 pm on June 13th (Clevey and Appleyard assisting); one focus of event will be recruiting landlord participation in DTE multi-family pilot as part of HUD green rental grant; Michigan Energy Fair June 27-28 (GLREA hosting at Mason's Ingham Co. Fairgrounds); June 5th is Ann Arbor SPARK forum on Energy-Water nexus; Finishing up climate adaptation videos funded by GLAA-C tied with Community Climate Partnership; May 28-29 Plug-Volt event in Detroit focused on battery storage issues held by Next Energy; Comm. Gibbons mentioned Great Lakes Adaptation Conference on June 24-26 at U of M, will be regional roll-out of the Nation Climate Assessment among other adaptation sector presentations (More at: www.graham.umich.edu/glaac);

Eibert mentioned recent meeting with staff and traffic engineer Les Sepowski on reducing idling time at intersections/signals. Main limitation now is lack of data due to limited staffing. Discussed crowd-sourcing the data on things like car counts (Clevey asked about security cameras at intersections and whether these could aid). Lenski mentioned not reinventing the wheel in developing some kind of new app, that there are existing platforms and services we might be able to tap into (Eibert stated staff did not have luck getting data necessary to use some of the services that are out there).

Shriberg said that the Retirement and Pension Board was now ready to seriously investigate the fossil fuel divestment question per the City Council resolution and a contingent of Commission might meet with them to assist. Appleyard stated this comes on heels of Stanford just announcing they are divesting from coal.

Gibbons noted that the National Climate Assessment website is phenomenal and very user friendly.

"2030 Districts" - Bonnie Bona

Entirely run by the private sector. City supports only. Main public/private partners: property owners and managers, local governments, business and community stakeholders. Goal is to reduce energy, water, and transportation emissions 10% by 2015, 20% by 2020, 35% by 2025, and 50% by 2030. 2030 Districts created for property owners, while districts were created recognizing slow uptake among individual properties. Reduction percentage goals for buildings are taken from a national average, not off the building itself as a baseline. Energy Star Portfolio Manager used to track baseline progress. Transportation tracking is biggest challenge, especially getting a baseline. Seattle is only tracking commuter travel. Clean Energy Coalition (CEC) worked on a report to expand 2030 Challenge tracking for transportation so all travel is considered. Districts are typically in urban cores (say the DDA). CEC and USGBC Detroit Chapter are working on a sister-city concept between the two cities (Ann Arbor & Detroit) for a 2030 District. Pittsburg is one of the most active and successful Districts in place. Representatives from Pittsburg have come to Ann Arbor three times to mentor progress.

Local AIA Chapter convening A2 Kilowatt Crackdown – 15 local building architects tracking energy use. Several business and property owners in Detroit have moved a 2030 District concept phase into “emerging” district phase. MBA student team has worked with CEC on developing a governance document for 2030 sister cities. (Bona provided copies of sample support letters.)

Macomber asked about connection between these efforts and commercial disclosure policies that are coming out in many cities. Bona explained a policy is being drafted to examine the connection and potential leverage points.

In response to Gibbons question, Bona stated the DDA is a logical boundary for a 2030 District in Ann Arbor (they are not typically residential areas). Hookham followed up on the issue of boundary areas, highlighting challenge in tracking CO₂ in and out of a defined area; energy engineers will be a valuable tool and speak the language of BTUs and kilowatts – important to include them.

Wadland asked how service providers (e.g., electricians and trade unions) fit into this. Bona stated that once dues come into play after these Districts become more proven, they would be the first asked to contribute as they stand the most to gain from new business/work. As to participation, providers elsewhere have offered walk-through energy audits, or educational sessions to District participants.

Shriberg asked how this is managed, who owns it? Bona explained District must be a non-profit. Some places it is standalone or affiliated with organizations (like US Green Building Council). Funding is needed for an executive director and data person (at least 1.5 FTE). We are looking to funders and foundation support to eventually phase out into a self-sustaining model.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure

Appleyard said the Disclosure committee met once since last meeting and is close to finalizing invited participants for a larger advisory group to review the ordinance consideration.

Renewable Access/Community Solar

Wright discussed the topic around community solar work as relates to how the systems are being assessed for taxes as topic to further explore and understand.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Wright: solar tax assessing process in Ann Arbor

Lenksi: Alliance to Save Energy report; review for Commission ideas

Macomber: Water as relates to commercial disclosure work

ADJOURNMENT - Joint Meeting with Planning and Environmental Commissions Begins 7 pm

Appleyard's motion to adjourn was moved by Wright and seconded by Wadland at 7 PM.

Visit www.a2energy.org for community energy information in Ann Arbor,
or
www.a2gov.org/energy to learn more about the City's Energy Programs

Regular meetings shown Live and replayed on CTN Channel 16 and at
www.a2gov.org/ctn