

City of Ann Arbor

*100 N. Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
www.a2gov.org*



Formal Minutes

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

4:30 PM

City Council Chamber

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Rubin called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 100 N. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor, Michigan.

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Laura Rubin, Sylvia Taylor and Christopher S. Easthope

Absent 2 - Michael Garfield and Gilbert S. Omenn

SPEICAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

1. Jacqueline Beaudry - Legistar Presentation

Jacqueline Beaudry, Ann Arbor City Clerk, introduced a new software program called Legistar to the Commission. Legistar is the a new Legislative Information Center that the city uses to provide up-to-the-minute links to Agenda and Packet information, information on Boards and Commissions, the members and more. She explained how commissioners can access the Greenbelt agendas and other Boards and Commissions info as well.

ROLL CALL - Commissioner Garfield arrived at this time.

Commissioner Omenn arrived at 4:35 p.m.

Present 6 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Laura Rubin, Sylvia Taylor and Christopher S. Easthope

Absent 1 - Gilbert S. Omenn

2. Tim Nagae - Eco Sense TV Show

Tim Nagae of CTN addressed the Commission regarding a TV show called Eco Sense. Eco Sense is a series of 30 minute studio discussion and documenting news programs about energy and the environment. Dave Konkle, the Energy Coordinator for the City of Ann Arbor is the main panelist and he discusses the City's energy use. Three shows were created, Eco Sense #1, which talks about "Energy Challenge Part I - Energy Problems", Eco Sense #2, "Emergency Challenge Part II - Alternative Energy" and Eco Sense #3 "Energy Challenge Part III - Vehicles and Conservation". Mr. Nagae also passed out DVDs of the program to each commission member. Contact CTN at 734.769.7422 for more information.

ROLL CALL - Commissioner Omenn Arrived at this time.

Commissioner Garfield arrived at 4:37 p.m.

Present 7 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Gilbert S. Omenn, Laura Rubin, Sylvia Taylor and Christopher S. Easthope

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [08-0387](#) Greenbelt Advisory Commission Minutes of December 17, 2007

Commissioner Easthope noted on page 3 of the December 19, 2007 under Adjournment, the date August 10, 2004 should be changed to January 9, 2008.

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Omenn, that the Minutes be approved with changes by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council, for filing on 4/21/2008. On a voice vote, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

2. [08-0338](#) Greenbelt Advisory Commission Minutes - February 6, 2008

Commissioner Ezekiel noted a change on page 1 of the February 6, 2008 minutes under Approval of Minutes for January 15, 2008 it should read the "Chair" not the Mayor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Omenn, that the Minutes be approved with changes by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council, for filing on 4/21/2008. On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [08-0359](#) Open Space and Parkland Preservation Millage and Bond Finances

Ginny Trocchio passed out information regarding the Millage and Bond Finances. The Parks Advisory Commission (PAC) and the Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC) requested that staff break down the funding available in the millage and what has been spent by both Commissions and what's remaining for future projects. Funds were divided between PAC and GAC with 2/3 of the money going to GAC for Land Acquisitions and 1/3 going to PAC for Land Acquisitions. The documents are only guiding principals at this time and have not been approved by City Council.

Damon Thompson, Financial Manager for the City of Ann Arbor, explained the Open Space and Parkland Preservation Millage and Bond Finances to the Commission. The draft is a historical summary of the millage and shows where the city stands between the Park Advisory Commission and the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. The draft mid-year income statement provides back up information regarding the summary of Open Space and Parkland Preservation document. As of February 29, 2008, there is a Fund balance of \$14,296,752.00 available for GAC and over all, a Fund balance of \$18,807,211.00 which shows \$4,510,458 for PAC. Copies of the Open Space and Parkland Preservation Millage and income statement for the Open Space and Parkland Preservation Millage drafts are on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Hall asked why there was a 1/3 - 2/3 split regarding the joint PAC/GAC Administrative expenses instead of it being related to what each commissions is spending.

Ms. Trocchio explained that the administrative expenses are related to the project expenditures.

Mr. Thompson said that this was done historically. He could run a reverse scenario back to actual acquisitions if the Commission desired.

Ms. Trocchio said that there were also general expenses such as GIS which is GIS Staff that spends time on the program as a whole and is not divided out into hours spent on Greenbelt or Park Advisory, it is totaled up as general expenses.

Commissioner Ezekiel asked for clarification of the memo handed out relating to the calculation of the total revenue associated with each of the commissions.

Ms. Trocchio explained that it includes the projects, acquisitions and all administration costs.

Staff was asked to bring back dollar amounts associated with projects that are pending for each commission.

2. Landowner Donations

Commissioner Easthope said that he would like to see more landowner contributions to the Greenbelt. He explained that if appraisals come back more in line in what the market is now, there may be more leverage on behalf of the Commission in terms of making offers on properties.

Commissioner Bloomer said that they are facing a psychological barrier as property values have been dropping. As the appraised value drop, it may be difficult to justifying donations. He added that it's easier to ask for donations when property values are going up rather than down.

The Commission discussed the issue in more detail.

Councilmember Easthope left at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent 1 - Christopher S. Easthope

CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER LAND ACQUISITION

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Commissioner Hall, that the be that the Commission enter into a Closed session to consider land acquisition(s). On roll call, the Chairman declared the motion carred at 5:31 p.m., with the vote reading as follows:

Yeas: 7 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Garfield, Santi Hall2, Commissioner Omenn, Commissioner Rubin and Commissioner Taylor

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Easthope and POSITION

MEETING RECONVENED

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Commissioner Bloomer, that the meeting reconvene. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

MOTIONS

1. Grant Funds from the USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (RFPP)

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Commissioner Ezekiel, to recommend to Council to pay for grant funds from the USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) for the properties identified in application numbers 2007-02; 2007-06; 2007-21 and 2008-01 be approved. On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

2. Offer to Landowners Identified in Application Number 2007-09

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Commissioner Garfield, to recommend to Council to make an offer to the landowners identified in application number 2007-09 in the amount of \$4,004,000.00 contingent upon Ann Arbor Township's participation of 50% of the remaining purchase price (after grant funds) plus closing and due diligence costs be approved. On a voice vote, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

3. Partner with Washtenaw County on the Properties Identified in Application Number 2007-18

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Commissioner Ezekiel, to recommend to Council to partner with Washtenaw County on the properties identified in application number 2007-18 for up to 50% of the remaining purchase price, not to exceed a total of \$626,625.00 or (\$4,500.00/acre) be approved. On a voice vote, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None presented at this meeting.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

1. [08-0340](#) Communications from Subcommittee

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

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 6:34 p.m.