



City of Ann Arbor

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

Meeting Minutes Energy Commission

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

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

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: 10 - Wayne Appleyard, John Hieftje, David A. Wright, Diane Kurz, Brigit Macomber, Mike Shriberg, Mark Clevey, Erik Eibert, Elizabeth Gibbons, and Shoshannah Lenski

Absent: 2 - Charles Hookham, and Kenneth J. Wadland

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved unanimously on a voice vote

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved unanimously on a voice vote

[14-0179](#)

Minutes of the November 12, 2013 Ann Arbor Energy Commission Meeting

Attachments: Energy Commission Minutes 11-12-13.pdf

Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council due back on 2/18/2014

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Geisler: Second Sustainable Ann Arbor Forum coming up February 12th at the AADL downtown branch at 7pm (details: www.a2gov.org/sustainability). Focus of this next forum is sustainable ecosystems. Governor Snyder announced broad goals for energy in December, no specific details yet. DTE's amended renewable plan approved by MPSC, reducing the renewable energy surcharge 85 percent. Order also includes an MPSC directive to convene a work group to develop community solar in the solar programs of DTE and Consumers Energy. Workshop on January 23rd, Solar Powering Your Community (details: www.solaroutreach.org/events-landing). February 6, 5-7 PM is next MI Energy Forum at SPAR, titled "A Pragmatic Approach to Climate Change." City is working with the Erb Institute at U of M on an event with the Alliance to Save Energy that will focus on their agenda while also highlighting sustainability efforts in Ann Arbor. The Mayor added that Seattle is among

cities to already participate, and that Rackham was discussed as a possible venue.

Fossil Fuel Divestment

Shriberg: In contact with the investment committee at the City Pension Board and they said they will be taking up the issue in February or March and will seek Energy Commission input then.

Community Solar

Wright: HB 496 (Crowd Funding legislation) passed and signed by the Governor. Regulatory structure is now in place; can raise up to \$1 million if you don't have financial statements and up to \$2 million if you do. There is an interstate crowd funding website now called www.localstake.com, with potential to do local renewable energy project investments. Biennial RPS plan order issued by MPSC does mention a collaborative with DTE and stakeholders to develop a community solar program. (Geisler said he contacted MPSC staff and they are convening a first meeting on February 4th, with follow-ups occurring every three weeks until possibly May or June.)

Commercial Energy Disclosure

Macomber: Two page summary of the issue distributed. An energy disclosure ordinance is usually applied to commercial buildings; each city determines different aspects to how they proceed, such as whether to include rental buildings. Nine large cities have ordinances in place. Washington and New York oldest to enact, and the idea just began happening in the last 2 or 3 years. Forty percent of US greenhouse gas emissions come from buildings; this is driving these kinds of ordinances. If people pay attention and measure something, they tend to make improvements. Great potential to keep money in the local economy due to energy investments. Our committee is interested in the feasibility of looking at one of these ordinances. Getting the data is critical, requires cooperation from utility potentially. Boulder and Madison are looking at this now. Setting the building size threshold at the right point is important.

Clevey stated importance of distinguishing energy efficiency gains versus impacts during the period of the economic downturn, when describing background facts for this issue.

Apleyard: We spoke with IMT (Institute for Market Transformation), and there are a number of things happening with disclosure, which is an area they are working on right now. A data organizing template for reporting and access may come out soon, which is key to reducing set-up time for new websites and other tracking systems that would otherwise be time-consuming. Another group is looking at how to best promote and educate people on the importance and reasoning for energy disclosure. This fits with time of market issue we have discussed, and the rental housing grant work happening now. Cities with municipal and private utilities are trying this.

Hieftje said budget plan is being prepared now by the City Administer and over the next couple of months so timing may be good to set-up an actionable plan. May make to the second meeting of Council in March and get synergy with the ASE (Alliance to Save Energy) event discussed earlier in the meeting.

Shriberg said a proposal could be put before Council and they can come back asking for details or reworking, rather than getting their permission to move this later.

Hiefjte said several building owners like those who used PACE could be approached to find out what they think; they could be sounding board and source of support.

Eibert knows a person involved in the New York ordinance and said they had the City report first on their buildings in year one to set the example.

Appleyard said you want the minimum building size threshold to be small enough to pick-up enough square footage, and so it has varied city to city. Macomber noted New York's formula was good because even though it was not a huge building count, those buildings accounted for around 50 percent of the city-wide energy usage. Staff has pulled the information to see where the potential size cutoffs are in Ann Arbor. Appleyard said there are a number of considerations: how accessible is the information; do you also require energy audits?

Lenski asked what kind of data is required in these ordinances. (Appleyard stated it is annual usage either in total or broken out by the sources). Lenski further asked whether industry type is provided with the data to make it more usable for comparisons. Appleyard said that EPA's Portfolio Manager is usually used for disclosure programs and it breaks out usage as well by the particular climate, for comparisons.

Macomber: This special committee will meet to draft a resolution before next Commission meeting, and include resources from IMT and other cities to accompany what goes to City Council.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Climate Action Plan

Staff: First meeting is tomorrow for the working group of the Community Climate Partnership (CCP). At the February Commission meeting, a staffer for the CCP will update the Commission to see how best to fit their work with the Commission's.

Energy Production

Commissioner Hookham informed staff he is still exploring low-head hydro options and may have more information in the next couple of weeks.

Appleyard said he believed the system is under development by a fairly local company out of Ohio. Their system looks to be safe for river recreation, which would be important for any sort of application here.

Staff is still exploring a large solar array with DTE that would have room enough to hopefully grow in the future. Details still being worked out.

Renewable Energy Access

Wright: This has morphed into the community solar work.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Energy Disclosure
- Community Solar
- CCP: Monica Patel

(Clevy interested in behind the meter solar as fitting with community solar work)

(Gibbons interested in CCP involvement)

Community Climate Partnership (CCP) Update - Monica Patel (Ecology Center)

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Appleyard adjourned the meeting at 6:44 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