



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes

Environmental Commission

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
[http://a2gov.legistar.com/
Calendar.aspx](http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)

Thursday, January 26, 2017

7:00 PM

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St, Second
floor, City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

- Present:** 9 - Susan Hutton, Benjamin Maier Muth, Allison Skinner, Robert Needham, Jarin Marocco, Chip Smith, Karie Slavik, Jason Frenzel, and Mike Appel
- Absent:** 2 - Christopher L. Graham, and Wendy Woods

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Smith motioned that the agenda be adopted as presented with Commissioner Appel seconding. On a voice vote, Chair Hutton called the item passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[16-1382](#) Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes August 2016

Attachments: Formal Environmental Commission Minutes 25-AUG-2016

A motion was made by Skinner, seconded by Needham, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

[17-0075](#) Environmental Commission Minutes of December 1, 2016

Attachments: Formal Minutes 12-1-2016

Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council due back on 2/21/2017

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Vince Caruso spoke about the Pall-Gelman site, specifically about seeping groundwater in West Park. Rita Caruso, former Environmental Commissioner, also spoke about the Pall-Gelman site, and asked what the result will be from not changing the status quo. Eric Lipson would like the Commission to take action to treat as much ground water as possible.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chair Hutton recognized the contributions of Commissioners Appleyard and Woods and thanked them for their service.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

17-0156 EPA Region 5 Superfund Basics

Attachments: GelmanPetitionHRSFINAL

Three EPA staffers from the Chicago office came to speak to the Commission about what Superfund sites are; how to get a place listed on the National Priorities List (NPL); obstacles to getting a site listed; and specifics about the Gelman site. The video runs from 11:00 in the video to 1:08:00 in the video. Chair Hutton asked if there are many sites like ours. Staff replied that they have sites with very large plumes but they don't have a site with a 1,4 dioxane plume this size. Councilmember Smith asked about whether they have sites that have had state involvement for a long period of time. Staff responded that it is not unusual for a state to try to manage the clean-up but then ask for help. Councilmember Frenzel asked whether what the municipalities asked for is unusual. Staff replied that asking for a preliminary assessment is not unusual, and that they will have an answer about that soon. Councilmember asked whether the new administration will impact timelines. Staff replied that she did not know. Commissioner Muth asked about methods for removal. Staff went over a variety of options. Commissioner Muth asked the relative size of the Gelman Plume- staff replied that it is "large". He also asked if the cost to clean up a site is part of the scoring mechanisms, and staff replied that it wasn't. Staff Naud asked what the difference between a state-led site and a federal-led site is. EPA staff replied that Gelman is currently a state-led site but if it was added to the NPL, it would become a federal site. He also asked how the clean-up standard is chosen. Staff replied that there is no federal drinking water standard so it is complicated. Commissioner Muth asked for more details about timelines.

Received and Filed**17-0157** Huron River and Impoundments Management Plan Update 2017**Attachments:** HRIMP Update 2017

The video of the presentation runs from 1:09:00 until 1:28:00. Staff Naud went over the status of all 31 projects in the HRIMP. Two major recommendations emerged from the Committee's work that a new joint subcommittee meet 2-4x/year to review progress on the plan and that the plan be adopted (apart from the recommendation to remove Argo Dam). Commissioner Appel asked about the possibility of increasing the City's legal liability through the public's exposure to coliform bacteria. Staff Naud replied the City does not currently test the river for coliform bacteria, and that it is technically illegal to swim off of an Ann Arbor Park.

Received and Filed**17-0129** Environmental Commission Recommendation on Huron River Impoundment Monitoring

A motion was made by Councilmember Frenzel, seconded by Needham, that the Resolution be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

Ann Arbor Climate Partnership Resource Management Team Update

The video for this agenda item runs between 1:30:00 and 1:56:00. Members of the Ann Arbor Climate Partnership's Resource Management Priority Team gave a presentation about the City's outstanding balance in the resource management millage fund, and urged that the City go out for actual bids for current landfill tipping costs and reprogram the fund balance to focus on diversion programs and returning the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to full operation. Another presentation about the City's organics management plan was given by a member of the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Anya Dale from University of Michigan spoke about UM's growing commitment to having more zero-waste events both in the community and on campus. The last presentation was about multifamily residential recycling efforts. Councilmember Smith asked Staff Naud about the status of the organics management plan recommendations. He replied that the Commission will get a formal presentation from the organics management plan consultants in February or March.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES AND CHAIR

Commissioner Appleyard gave an update on the City's solar group buy and community solar programs. He also spoke about the Climate Action Plan proposal submitted to Council and asked for support. Chair Hutton informed the Commission that they will be getting a presentation about the City's solar group buy program at their next meeting. Commissioner Appel gave an update from the Parks Commission that they approved funding for seasonal boat lockers.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Staff Naud gave an update that the closed landfill's new blower skid will likely save the City money every year through energy efficiency. There will be a big meeting with internal staff on the feasibility of a biodigester.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

No items for the next agenda

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Next regular meeting is February 23, 2017. There will be a special meeting to address MRF contracts in mid-February.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hutton adjourned the meeting at 9:06 pm.

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301 E. Huron St.
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