

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 7, 2013

4:30 PM

City Hall, 301 E. Huron St., 2nd Floor, Council Chambers

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Riseng called the meeting of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission to order at 4:31 p.m. in the Guy C. Larcom, Jr. Building, 2nd Floor Council Chambers, 301 E. Huron St.

ROLL CALL

Present 9 - Peter Allen, Catherine Riseng, Shannon Brines, Archer H. Christian, Christopher Taylor, Stephanie Buttrey, Jennifer Fike, John Ramsburgh, and Jean Cares

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, that the Agenda be Approved as presented. On a voice vote, Chairperson Riseng declared the motion carried.

A SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A-1 14-0045 Greenbelt Advisory Commission Overview November 7, 2013

Ginny Trocchio gave a brief presentation to the Commission. The presentation was an overview describing the Partnerships between the Greenbelt Advisory Commission and surrounding Counties and Townships. The presentation covered the number of projects completed, partnerships with Local governments, funding options and finally a description of the partnership structures between the County, City and Townships. (A copy of the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office).

A-2 14-0044 Presentation by Tom Freeman, NAPP Coordinator, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation

Tom Freeman, Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) Coordinator from Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation was present and addressed the Commission. Mr. Freeman stated that he has been active in the NAPP program for a number of years and he expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to address the Commission.

Mr. Freeman presented an outline of the Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program. Mr. Freeman briefly reviewed the presentation and identified major points in the document. Those major points included an overview of the program and its history, NAPP Accomplishments, Partnerships and Community Involvement, future Land Preservation Priorities and 2013 Program Updates. (A copy of the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office).

A-3 14-0046 Presentation by Barry Lonik, Treemore Ecology and Land Services Protected Properties & High Priority Properties for Parks, Open Space & Farmland

Barry Lonik, Treemore Ecology and Land Services and township consultant thanked the Commission for inviting him to give a brief overview of the program that he is involved with. Mr. Lonik presented slides of maps of Ann Arbor, Scio, Webster and Salem Townships to the Commission. He gave an update on each of the Townships with regard to the preserves, conservation easements and current millage details. (A

copy of the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office).

Commissioner Fike asked how the usage of the preserves is tracked. Mr. Freeman responded, stating his agency receives reports regarding activity from neighbors of the area as well as the stewardship crews that routinely visits the sites. He explained that the preserves don't have a high visitation rate but there are spikes of activity seasonally.

Commissioner Allen asked what proportion of the woods that are preserved need burns and what is the cost involved. Mr. Freeman responded, stating a high proportion of the woods that are preserved would need some burn activity over the course of the program. Unfortunately the cost of an actual burn was not available. However, he stated that a significant amount of funds is used on equipment and training staff specifically for this purpose. He also explained that between \$5,000 and \$10,000 is spent annually on burns that are contracted and not performed by staff.

Commissioner Christian asked what strategies are used to secure additional properties that have been identified as high priority by the various townships. Mr. Lonik responded, stating he sends letters and follows up with phone calls and meetings. He informs the property owners of their options and provides information with regard to preserving their land.

Chairperson Riseng thanked both gentlemen for their time. She stated that the collaboration between both agencies and the Commission has been a good one.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

(4 SPEAKERS MAXIMUM - 5 MINUTE SPEAKING TIME - SIGN UP MUST TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO THE MEETING BY NOTIFYING THE CHAIR OR CITY STAFF. THIS SECTION OF PUBLIC COMMENTARY IS LIMITED TO ITEMS RELATED TO THE AGENDA.)

None.

B APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[13-1389](#)

Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of 10/3/13

A motion was made by Commissioner Fike, A motion was made by Commissioner Fike, seconded by Commissioner that the Minutes of October 3, 2013 be approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council for filing. On a voice vote, Chairperson Riseng declared the motion carried.

C OLD BUSINESS

None.

D NEW BUSINESS

None.

E NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None.

F COMMUNICATIONS

None.

G REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

None.

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None.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION

A motion was made by Councilmember Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the Commission enter into Closed session to discuss land acquisition. On a roll call, the vote was as follows with the Chairman declaring the motion carried (the meeting recessed at 5:11 p.m.)

Yeas: 9 - Commissioner Allen, Chair Riseng, Commissioner Brines, Commissioner Christian, Councilmember Taylor, Commissioner Buttrey, Commissioner Fike, Commissioner Ramsburgh, and Cares

Nays: 0

MEETING RECONVENED

5:47 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Christian, seconded by Commissioner Fike that the Greenbelt Advisory Commission meeting reconvenes. On a voice vote, Chairperson Riseng declared the motion carried.

MOTION 1 Application 2013-08

A motion was made by Commissioner Fike, seconded by Commissioner Brines, that the following motion be Approved.

A motion to recommend to City Council to partner with Scio Township on application 2013-08 and contribute \$67,000.00.

On a voice vote, the chair declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Riseng asked if there were any other items for consideration. Hearing none she declared the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.