



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, April 25, 2019

7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by acting chair, Commissioner Allison Skinner at 7 pm.

Present: 12 - Christopher L. Graham, Susan Hutton, Allison Skinner, Robert Needham, Chip Smith, Karie Slavik, Mike Appel, Shannan Gibb-Randall, Anne Bannister, John Callewaert, Stephen C Brown, and Jonathan Overpeck

ROLL CALL

Present: 8 - Susan Hutton, Allison Skinner, Chip Smith, Karie Slavik, Shannan Gibb-Randall, Anne Bannister, John Callewaert, and Stephen C Brown

Absent: 5 - Christopher L. Graham, Robert Needham, Mike Appel, Jonathan Overpeck, and John Mirsky

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Skinner moved for approval of agenda. As no changes were called for, the commission members approved the agenda unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[19-0868](#) Environmental Commission Minutes for 3-28-19

Attachments: Env Commission minutes from March 2019.pdf

Commissioner Skinner submitted the previous meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Brown recommended a correction to minutes. With the correction noted, the Commissioners approved the minutes unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Commissioner Skinner opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS**Funding Presentation**

19-0828 Presentation on the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request

Attachments: Funding Presentation_Environmental Commission 4-25-19.pdf

The Commission heard a presentation by City Administrator Howard Lazarus on the funding budget for the next fiscal year. The presentation came with a resolution for next year, which would go to City Council.

City Administrator Lazarus offered an overview of the city budget, including total budget expenditures, along with fund balances remaining. He also focused on funding priorities for FY 19-20, noting increased funding for sustainability, community mental health, and affordable housing. He also reviewed other changes to the budget, such as allocations for the Climate Action Plan. He explained the Performance Measures for the Climate Action Plan and Safe Drinking Water/Water Sewer Infrastructure.

He reviewed the Climate Action Plan funding in detail, which would support work undertaken by different agencies. The funds would go to programs such as:

Net zero affordable housing; Sustaining Ann Arbor Together Micro Grant (SA2T); 100% Clean and Renewable; Revolving Energy Fund; and a host of other programs. He also discussed Green Rental Housing; Resilience Hubs; Time of Marketing; Green Business Challenge; Aging in Place Efficiently; Weatherization Expansion; Energy Efficiency; and Solar in the Community.

City Administrator Lazarus took questions from the Commissioners on a range of topics, including plans for the Argo Dam and specifics about the breakdown of the budget.

19-0827 Resolution to Support the Proposed FY 2020 City of Ann Arbor Municipal Budget Process

Attachments: DRAFT Resolution to support budget process_Environmental Commission.pdf

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Brown, that the Resolution be Approved by the Commission. On a voice vote, the Vice Chair Skinner declared the motion carried.

SWRMP Presentation

Staff Cresson Slotten presented on the Solid Waste Resource Management Plan (SWRMP). He also addressed a question from Commissioner Mirsky regarding Recycle Ann Arbor.

Staff Slotten continued his presentation on the progress to date on SWRMP, with contributions from Christina Siebert. Christina explained how they had identified 14 options for waste management based on stakeholder input from interviews, focus groups, and advisory committees for residential, commercial, and downtown. They reviewed feedback of the proposed options.

Commissioner Callewaert asked for clarification about the ratings system used in their presentation, and received acknowledgement that the system needs improvement. Other commissioners addressed recycling options for textiles through Simple Recycling.

Siebert resumed the presentation on SWRMP. She summarized the Commercial Sector Options (focused on restaurant grease) and feedback from advisory committee feedback on different options and costs. She also went over Downtown/Alley collection options, with questions from the commissioners about specific elements of current solid waste management practices.

Staff Slotten continued with a presentation of financial model & fund projections, with a focus on the key analytic models and tools for generating financial impacts. The commissioners raised questions about fluctuations in the budget and asked about measures that would ensure that budget needs would become more predictable in the future.

Siebert explained the methodology for assessing cost of service (by the different sectors), including financial adjustments. She broke down the

cost of service analysis expenses displayed on a pie chart, with separate explanations of residential services. The disparity in rates (recycling, waste, and compost) were explained in terms of frequency and labor costs.

The commissioners raised questions about disparities between types of service and sectors. Siebert responded by explaining the disparities in terms of labor (city staff versus contracted costs). She also accounted for the differences more fully in terms of actual processing, transportation, and labor costs, and addressed questions about possible revenues that might come from recycling materials from other cities

Staff Slotten and consultant Siebert offered a comparison of FY 18 revenues and expenses and explained fund balances. Siebert went through Resident Survey Results. The survey was conducted in the last week of March, and involved 400 members of the community in a phone survey of 15-minute questions with 30 content questions. The survey had a 95% confidence level and dealt with a broad range of topics like satisfaction with current service, recycling and compost practices, and bulky items.

The survey found general satisfaction with garbage and recycling – with greater dissatisfaction with compost. However, the survey found that residents needed more information about current services, especially less frequently collected materials like bulky items. Residents also had questions about specific programs. The survey also explored what programs respondents would be willing to pay for and their attitudes about different fee structures. The survey showed strong support for sustainability-minded businesses

Staff Slotten closed presentation with next steps for SWRMP: completing financial model and fund balance projections; drafting recommendations; putting together final report; and presenting the report to the Environmental Commission.

19-0860 01-2019-04-25 SWRMP EC Status Update

Attachments: 01-2019-04-25 SWRMP EC Status Update rev2.pdf

19-0861 02-SWRMP Preliminary Options - draft for discussion, EC

Attachments: 02-SWRMP Preliminary Options - draft for discussion, EC.pdf

[19-0862](#) 03-Ann Arbor Tonnage Summary - 2013-2018

Attachments: 03-Ann Arbor Tonnage Summary - 2013-2018.pdf

[19-0863](#) 04-City of Ann Arbor Cost of Service Technical Memorandum - draft
01-10-19

Attachments: 04-City of Ann Arbor Cost of Service Technical
Memorandum - draft 01-10-19.pdf

[19-0864](#) 05-Resident Survey Topline Results

Attachments: 05-Resident Survey Topline Results.pdf

[19-0865](#) 06-Resident Survey Report - DRAFT 041719

Attachments: 06-Resident Survey Report - DRAFT 041719.pdf

[19-0866](#) 07-RAA-Rumpke Material Audits Summary_2019-04

Attachments: 07-RAA-Rumpke Material Audits Summary_2019-04.pdf

Resolution to approve Ann Arbor's membership in WRRMA

Commissioner Skinner introduced resolution for the City of Ann Arbor to join WRRMA (Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority). Brown explained the resolution and what would be entailed by membership. The commissioners discussed the resolution and requested more context. Siebert offered the financial benefits of joining the WRRMA. Commissioner Smith relayed some input from City Council and concerns that were brought up by members of Council in March. Commissioners Smith and Brown explained how resolution addressed those concerns.

Commissioners passed resolution unanimously

[19-0859](#) Environmental Commission Resolution to Recommend City Council Approve the City's Constituent Membership in the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority (WRRMA) before June 1, 2019

Commissioners passed this item unanimously.

Approved by the Commission**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR**

Commissioner Skinner asked for updates from the various sub-committees.

The Planning Commission representative, Commissioner Gibb-Randall, proposed that the Natural Features Subcommittee prioritize the protection of heritage trees and gave an update regarding the development of DTE brownfields.

Councilmember Bannister reported that there were celebrations of two Earth Days with mayoral proclamations, all of which were well received. She gave an update on the progress of the Potassium Iodine policy work. She also requested further budget amendment ideas from members of Commission, which must be submitted by May 15.

Councilmember Smith spoke about the upcoming Leslie Science Center Earth Day event.

The Water Working Group is working to develop goals for the year and is investigating what data the City has, with the possibility of eventually revising the Green Streets policy.

The Solid Waste Working Group reported that they had contacted City staff to work on metrics.

19-1286 April 2019 Report from the Energy Commission

REPORT FROM STAFF

The Commission invited City Staff MacDonald to provide updates. He offered updates on the solar installation program; provided information about a Solar Power Hour scheduled for April 29 at Cobblestone Farm at 6 pm; and explained the state of the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory. Staff MacDonald also noted that Sustainability staff are working on the GHG Inventory numbers, including waste and transportation.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

None

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

May 23, 2019

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Commissioner Skinner invited public commentary. One member of the public raised a question about solar power and the ways that roads were being fixed. She mentioned that there was self-healing concrete. She also asked to know more about the drainage in the dam. She made suggestions about current City projects, suggesting that the 7 miles of drainage systems being put in during road repair could also be used for water power. She also recommended that the new 22 million-dollar parking station become a source for renewable energy. She also proposed that the City explore European methods for aluminum recycling.

Another member of the public, Ken Garber, made remarks regarding the solid waste survey results. He stated that the survey showed a gap in city residents' knowledge about composting and recycling. He mentioned that the City previously had a publication called Waste Watcher, which used to be mailed to city residences. He thought that the mailings would close the gap in knowledge.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Skinner adjourned the meeting at 9:27 pm.

All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:

**City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

Requests made with less than two business days' notice may not be able to be accommodated.