

City of Ann Arbor

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

Thursday, April 4, 2013

4:30 PM

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

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ezekiel called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. in the Guy C. Larcom, Jr. Building, 2nd Floor Council Chambers, 301 E. Huron St.

ROLL CALL

Present 7 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, Catherine Riseng, Shannon Brines, and Archer H. Christian

Absent 1 - Christopher Taylor

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Riseng, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the Agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Rubin, announced that her term would be ending June 30, 2013. Jennifer Fike, Finance Director of Huron Watershed Council has expressed interest in serving on the Commission. Her expertise is in local foods, she has strong connections and expertise with the Farmer School Programs, local farmers and expertise when looking at what's going on throughout the country. Commissioner Rubin thought that she would make a good fit for the Commission.

Ms. Fike introduced herself to the Commission and expressed her interest in serving on the Commission. Ms. Fike serves on the Land Conservancy Board, served as the Treasurer for Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy and served as Director of the Food System Economic Partnership. She said that she would like to lend some of her skills and expertise to the Commission and appreciated the Commission considering her.

Commissioner Ezekiel said that the next step would be Commission nominating Ms. Fike to City Council and for City Council to confirm the nomination. He also announced that two more vacancies would be coming up on the Commission at the end of June. Interested persons may download an application on line from the Mayor's webpage.

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.

A APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A-1 13-0379 Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2012 and February 6, 2013

A motion was made by Commissioner Rubin, seconded by Commissioner

Christian, that the Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2012 and February 6, 2013 be approved as presented by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council for filing. On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

B OLD BUSINESS

None.

C NEW BUSINESS

C-1 13-0372 Strategic Plan

Ginny Trocchio updated the Commission on the 2012 Strategic Plan. She said that no significant changes were made from partners. They did add to the plan how the greenbelt fits in with the larger agricultural economy. That was done because of recent changes and the large amount of land that has been acquired. She said that the plan would be submitted to City Council as a communication item once the Commission approves it. Commissioner made a few minor changes to the plan and approved it as amended.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bloomer, seconded by Commissioner Rubin, that the Strategic Plan be approved as amended. On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

C-2 Registry Program & Subcommittee

Commissioner Ezekiel said that they are setting up a Registry Program and are asking for volunteers and sit on a subcommittee to meet with Ms. Trocchio to come up with a registry program for the Ann Arbor Greenbelt.

Ms. Trocchio said the idea is to form relationships with new landowners, providing communication between City and landowner. They would call once a year to let them know what's going on with the program, inform them of neighboring closings and ask the landowners to notify the City if they decide to sell their property in the hopes of working out an easement on the property. This will create a more formal process in reaching out to farmers.

Commissioners Allen, Christian, Brines volunteered to be a part of the subcommittee.

C-3 Staff Updates

Ms. Trocchio said that she submitted a FRPP Grant at beginning of March. They requested just over \$2002.00 for two properties totaling 169 acres. There has been no word on whether or not those funds have been received, but she hoped to hear something within a month or two. Ms. Trocchio said she would keep the Commission updated on the progress.

D NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None.

E REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

None.

F COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY (5 MINIMUTE MAXIMUM SPEAKING TIME - NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SPEAKING IN THIS SECTION.)

None.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUS LAND ACQUISITION

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Riseng, that the the Commission enter into Closed session to dicuss Land Acquisition. On a roll call, the vote was as follows with the Chairman declaring the motion carried (The meeting recessed 5:02 p.m.):

Yeas: 7 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Riseng, Brines, and Commissioner Christian

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Taylor

MEETING RECONVENED

A motion was made by Commissioner Bloomer, seconded by Commissioner Rubin, that the meeting reconvene. On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 5:28 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Rubin, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the Meeting adjourn. On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Dan Ezekiel, Chairperson

**Anissa R. Bowden
Recording Secretary**