

# City of Ann Arbor

100 N. Fifth Avenue  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>



## Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

4:30 PM

County Building, 220 N. Main St.

**Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)**

## CALL TO ORDER

*Chair Hall called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. in the County Board of Commissioners Meeting Room located at 220 N. Main Street.*

## ROLL CALL

**Present** 3 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, and Jennifer Santi Hall

**Absent** 5 - Michael Garfield, Gilbert S. Omenn, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, and Catherine Riseng

## SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

### 1. Investment Income - Matt Horning, City Treasurer

*Matthew Horning, City Treasurer addressed the Commission regarding investment income. Mr. Horning was asked to explain the decrease in investment income seen this past September when the Commission reviewed their finances and answer questions of the Commission.*

*Mr. Horning said that when the City receives money, it is allocated to different funds. Those funds are pooled together and invested in the General operating portfolio. The investment income is then allocated out amongst the different funds based on their participation in the pool. When a bond is issued, a separate distinct portfolio is then opened for those bond proceeds and then matched according to what they foresee the cash flow to be in the future.*

*(Commissioner Riseng arrived at 4:39 p.m.)*

*Mr. Horning said that the \$130,000.00 reported as unaudited on the investment income report is probably what alarmed the Commission. The good news is that it is unaudited and at the end of the year they make a classification entry. It is required that the City mark their investments to market at the end of each fiscal year.*

**Present** 5 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Jennifer Santi Hall, Carsten Hohnke, and Catherine Riseng

**Absent** 4 - Michael Garfield, Gilbert S. Omenn, Commissioner Laura Rubin, and Peter Allen

### 2. SELMA Cafe - Jeff McCabe and Lisa Gottlieb

*Lisa Gottlieb and Jeff McCabe introduced the SELMA Cafe to the Commission. The cafe is set up in their home on the south side of Ann Arbor. It was created two years ago to help support nonprofits in the area, who are working towards increasing the local food shed with security around local food by hosting a breakfast to raise money, build community and support around local food and the local food economy. The food is sourced locally, which they bought from local farmers and farmer markets. Ms. Gottlieb and Mr. McCabe purchase all of the food instead of receiving donations in order to keep money in the community.*

*The two decided to hold a breakfast each week from their home and have volunteers help with the breakfast. People are not paid for helping, it is strictly a volunteer basis.*

*Their volunteer base is now up to approximately 500 people. As money started coming in they wanted to find something to do with that money, in order to help increase food security, support local farmers, and build community and affiliation. It was decided to earmark the money for micro-loans for local farmers who would like to build hoop houses on their farmland to increase the food supply and be able to grow food year round.*

*Ms. Gotlieb explained that hoop houses are similar to green houses, but instead of using glass and metal and concrete to build them. Hoop houses are more light weight; using light weight metal and heavy gauge plastic and can be built in one day. Ms. gotlieb and Mr. McCabe started building hoop houses in Ann Arbor, in Detroit and in surrounding areas and asked volunteers to show up on site where breakfast was provided and everyone help build more hoop houses. The goal is to build more hoop houses in the near future. Currently there is not enough money to build more houses, so The Farmer Fund was created to help raise money to buy more kits to build more hoop houses.*

**Present** 6 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Jennifer Santi Hall, Gilbert S. Omenn, Carsten Hohnke, and Catherine Riseng

**Absent** 3 - Michael Garfield, Commissioner Laura Rubin, and Peter Allen

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

*None.*

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Bloomer, seconded by Commissioner Ezekiel, that the Agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Minutes from October 13, 2010 are not available at this time.**

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

*None.*

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

*None.*

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1      10-1186      2011 Greenbelt Advisory Commission Calendar

**A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Commissioner Hohnke, that the 2011 GAC calendar be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

2      10-1185      Public Commentary Procedures and Agenda Template

**A motion was made by Commissioner Bloomer, seconded by Commissioner Omenn, that the Commission accept the proposed changes to Public Comment and update the Agenda template. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

3.      **Participation Agreement with Webster Township**

*Commissioner Hall gave background information on the Whitney property that was approved by City Council on July 6, 2010 by Resolution No. R-10-248, File No. 10-0656. She said that Webster Township has committed to contributing \$50,000.00 to the property and that the commission should make a motion accepting that contribution.*

*Ms. Trocchio said that staff plans to close on this property by the end of the year.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Ezekiel, seconded by Commissioner Riseng, that the Commission recommends to City Council to partner with Webster Township on the Purchase of Development Rights on the Whitney Farm and accept the Townships contribution of \$50,000.00. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

4.      **Greenbelt Boundary**

*Commissioner Ezekiel proposed that the subcommittee reconven again to consider recommending to Council that they adjust the boundaries of the greenbelt. He added that changes have occurred and the Commission's knowledge has grown and it may be possible to reach the goals of the Strategic Plan better with some adjustments to the boundary.*

*The commission discussed this recommendation in more detail.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Ezekiel, seconded by Commissioner Omenn, to form a subcommittee to review the greenbelt boundary. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

5.      **Staff Update**

*CLOSING ON GOULD PROPERTY*

*Ginny Trocchio informed the Commission that staff closed on the Gould property which is adjacent to the Braun property. Closing on this property brings the total acres protected to 2200.*

*PA116 AND FARM AND RANCH GRANT*

*Ms. Trocchio said that an official statement has not been made on the properties enrolled in PA116. The national programmer for Farm and Ranch Protection Program organized a conference call for some of the practitioners throughout the United States last week to discuss concerns about the program on a nation wide level. She said that she had not received a response on the issue to date and would update the Commission once the information was provided to her.*

*BRAUN PROPERTY UPDATE*

*Ms. Trocchio announced that the Brauns have agreed to open up their property for a celebration. They would like to organize a formal event at their property once the sign has been placed on their property. The date of the event is still to be determined.*

*DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE*

*The Defenders of Wildlife, a nonprofit organization, has put together a guide for land trust and landowners for the Federal Farm Bill. Ms. Trocchio provided copies to commissioners if they wanted more information regarding the organization.*

*COMMISSIONER OMENN*

*Commissioner Omenn said that a Michigan woman received national recognition in Seattle and was flown to the White House to be honored together with four other individuals from around the country for her work on .*

**NEXT AGENDA ITEMS**

*None.*

**REPORT FROM COMMITTEES**

*COMMISSIONER EZEKIEL*

*Commissioner Ezekiel said that the County Natural Area Preservation renewal was approved in November 2011 Election for ten more years. It was approved by a generous margin which is great considering today's economy. It was adjusted to allow for the placement of some of the monies in the PDR on farms.*

*COMMISSIONER OMENN*

*Commissioner Omenn said that the Governor Elect said that his first priority in office is to create jobs, rebuild the economy and to protect the quality of life, the environment. He said that his statements are concurrent with our work on this Commission.*

*COMMISSIONER HALL*

*Commissioner Hall presented a book titled "Dirt Roads of Washtenaw", written by Rob Pulcifer. The book has in it farms with greenbelt easements. The book also has maps of bike rides suggested on dirt roads throughout Washtenaw County.*

*Commissioner Hall also announced the commission will have two terms expiring in 2011. She encouraged the public to show their interest in serving on the Commission and to apply in the Mayor's Office.*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

*None.*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

*None.*

#### **CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Commissioner Bloomer, that the Commission enter into Closed Session. On roll call, the vote was as follows, with the Chair declaring the motion carried (The meeting recessed at 5:55 p.m.):**

**Yeas:** 6 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Santi Hall, Commissioner Omenn, Councilmember Hohnke, and Commissioner Riseng

**Nays:** 0

**Absent:** 3 - Commissioner Garfield, Commissioner Rubin, and Commissioner Allen

#### **MEETING RECONVENED**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Ezekiel, seconded by Commissioner Omenn, that the meeting be reconvened. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried (The meeting reconvened at 6:04 p.m.):**

#### **MOTION #1**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Bloomer, seconded by Commissioner Hohnke, to recommend to the Ann Arbor City Council to contribute 50% of the due diligence cost and partnership with Ann Arbor Township for the property identified in Application No. 2007-20. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Riseng, seconded by Commissioner Omenn, that the meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.**

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**Jennifer Santi Hall, Chairperson**

**Anissa R. Bowden  
Recording Secretary**