



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, February 23, 2017

7:00 PM

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St,
Basement, conference room

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: 10 - Christopher L. Graham, Susan Hutton, Allison Skinner, Robert Needham, Jarin Marocco, Chip Smith, Karie Slavik, Jason Frenzel, John Mirsky, and Mike Appel

Absent: 1 - Benjamin Maier Muth

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Skinner, seconded by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, that the agenda be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[17-0150](#) Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes of 1-26-2017

Attachments: FormalMinutes 1-26-2017

Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council due back on 4/24/2017.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Allan Newman, Chair of Recycle Ann Arbor, referenced a letter the organization sent the Commission the previous week and spoke about the organization's perspective on the interim recycling contract.

Caroline LaRose, a graduating senior MBA student from UM, spoke about her concerns that the staff's calculation of the MRF proposals did not include the \$50,000/month fee from Waste Management. She also expressed concern about standard fees listed on Waste Management's website.

Jan Wright, a member of Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, spoke of there being lots of community support for the Organics Management Plan. She was most concerned about the GHGs released from food waste that is not composted. She liked the Plan's component to divert food before it gets wasted. She wants to see a strong education component and supports the mandate for large commercial food businesses.

Wayne Appleyard, former Environmental Commissioner, thanked the Commission for looking at the numbers for the interim recycling contract closely. He strongly believes that the Commission should choose a local nonprofit over an out-of-the-area business. He also believes that the Commission needs to look at the process of how the MRF was allowed to disintegrate and was not fixed. He urged the Commission to approve Recycle Ann Arbor's bid and to tell Council to get the MRF running again.

Miriam Flagler strongly supports the Organics Management Plan and said that it will aid their business. She expressed concerns about any new voluntary or mandatory costs, as they already spend approximately \$17,000/year on waste. She said her business supports Recycle Ann Arbor.

Eileen Spring, Executive Director of Food Gatherers, gave her support to the Organics Management Plan. Food Gatherers has been doing food recovery for over 30 years. Last year, over 6 million pounds of food were distributed. They'd like to share their expertise as the Plan moves forward.

Todd Bukowsky, a packaging consultant for over 10 years, expressed concern about the City's baling of unsorted recyclables. Some of the problems from that practice include materials degrading; materials interlocking; glass residue getting crushed; and the wires from baling posing safety hazards. He said that Ann Arbor should look to the circular economy and be a leader.

Noelle Bowman, Washtenaw County Food Policy Committee member and staff of Washtenaw County Waste Management group, spoke of their support for the Organics Management Plan especially re: commercial. The County's new Solid Waste Plan will be adopted this year. Commercial food waste is a significant percentage of waste in the County. She said that the City of Ann Arbor has long been a leader in the state, and that the County is looking forward to working together.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

17-0242 Environmental Commission Recommendation on Interim Operations for MRF and Transfer Station

Attachments: CP Ann Arbor MRF Inspection 2017, Memo to EC - Follow Up Items_2017-02-22, 2015 Ann Arbor Audit CP

The amended Resolved clause reads, "Resolved, the Environmental Commission recommends that the Ann Arbor City Council direct the City Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Recycle Ann Arbor for loose loading of recyclable materials at a price competitive with the best proposals."

Coverage of this item runs from 23:10 to 1:23:59 on the video.

A motion was made by Needham, seconded by Skinner, that the Resolution be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council and should be returned by 4/24/2017. On a unanimous voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

17-0286 Organics Management Plan Presentation

Attachments: Resident survey report - final draft 2-17, EC meeting presentation - 2-23-17, EC draft recommendations - 2-23-17

Christina Seibert of CB&I gave a presentation of the preliminary results of the draft Organics Management Plan. Details of the presentation and discussion are between 1:24:00 and 2:48:21 in the video.

Received and Filed

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES AND CHAIR

No reports from Committees or Chair.

REPORT FROM STAFF

No report from staff.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Commissioner Appel wants to give Staff the opportunity to discuss the county process that was referenced in their recommendation for the MRF.

Commissioner Skinner wants to discuss reviewing how the MRF could be made operational in the short- and medium-terms.

Commissioner Frenzel wants the Commission to draft a memo about all the lessons learned along the way regarding the interim recycling contract.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

No public commentary.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm by Chair Hutton.

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

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