

City of Ann Arbor

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

Thursday, August 2, 2012

4:30 PM

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

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Ezekiel called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. in Council Chambers, 301 E. Huron Street.

ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Dan Ezekiel, Peter Allen, Catherine Riseng, Liz Rother, Shannon Brines, and Archer H. Christian

Absent 3 - Tom Bloomer, Commissioner Laura Rubin, and Carsten Hohnke

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. **Bridget Callahan – Food System Economic Partnership (FSEP) – Land Link Program Research**

Bridget Callahan, a student at the University of Michigan, gave a slide presentation on the Food System Economic Partnership regarding Land Link Program. Land Link Programs throughout the country facilitate the transfer of farmland from farmland owners to farmland seekers. She explained that financing land, finding land and linking into farming networks can be challenging for beginning farmers who do not have a farming background and the program helps with that endeavor. Land Link programs also provide services for leasing agreements that can lead from partnership to ownerships to the new farmers. Some programs also direct participants to land conservancies and other development rights arrangements. PDR and Land linking Programs make purchasing farm land more affordable for beginning farmers and they encourage landowners to preserve farmland.

Ms. Callahan concluded by stating that Ann Arbor Greenbelt and a Land Link Program could fit together with a common goal of working to protect farmland. Land link could direct individuals towards the Greenbelt Program and vice versa.

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 [12-1027](#) Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of July 5, 2012

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Riseng, that the Regular session Minutes of July 5, 2012 be approved by the

Commission and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chairman Ezekiel declared the motion carried.

B OLD BUSINESS

None.

C NEW BUSINESS

C-1 RFP Process

Chairman Ezekiel said that the current FRPP contract will expire at the end of the year and they would be looking for a new contract and or contractor at that time. Public Services Area Administrator Sumedh Bahl said that he would like to have a contact person from the Greenbelt look over the RFP be a part of the interviewing of potential applicants. Commissioner Riseng volunteered to be the contact person from the Greenbelt.

C-2 Staff Update

Ginny Trocchio said that she has been finalizing the details for the bus tour scheduled for September 22, 2012. They are considering taking a tour along the eastern portion of the greenbelt this time and are working with partners along the Superior greenway. Information regarding the tour would be posted on the website as well as emails going out to commissioners.

Ms. Trocchio updated the commission on the Farm Bill. She said that a lot of questions have been asked regarding the bill. The latest that she has heard about the Farm and Ranch Grants Program is that there have been significant cuts proposed for conservation programs and the latest that she has seen is about \$50 million to FRPP for next year nationwide. She said she would update the commission further when more information is provided.

Chairperson Ezekiel announced he was asked to appear on the show Issues With The Environment on WEMU. The program is scheduled to air on October 22, 2012. He said that the Greenbelt has been featured on that program from time to time and they reached out to him and asked if he would appear on the show.

D NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None presented.

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 Riseng, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the Commission enter into Closed session to discuss Land Acquisition(s). On a roll call, the vote was as follows with the Chairman declaring the motion carried (The meeting recessed at 4:58 p.m.):

Yeas: 6 - Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Riseng, Commissioner Rother, Brines, and Commissioner Christian

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Rubin, and Councilmember Hohnke

MEETING RECONVENED

A motion was made by Brines, seconded by Commissioner Rother, that the meeting reconvene. On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 6:03 p.m.

Application No. 2011-11

A motion was made by Commissioner Christian, seconded by Commissioner Riseng, to recommend to City Council to proceed with purchase of development rights on approximately 124 acres of property identified in application 2011-11 and to recommend to option the remainder 79 acres to apply to Farm and Ranchland Protection Program in 2013.. On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Application No. 2012-02

A motion was made by Commissioner Christian, seconded by Commissioner Allen, to recommend to City Council to partner with Salem Township on purchase of development rights on property identified in Application No. 2012-02 and to contribute 25.5% of purchase price, not to exceed \$57,498.00 and for the City to hold the easement. On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Riseng, seconded by Commissioner Christian, that the meeting adjourn. On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Dan Ezekiel, Chairperson

Anissa R. Bowden
Recording Secretary