



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes

Environmental Commission

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Thursday, June 22, 2017

7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hutton called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: 10 - Susan Hutton, Allison Skinner, Jarin Marocco, Chip Smith, Jason Frenzel, John Mirsky, Veronica Hannah, Mike Appel, Joshua Rego, and Shannan Gibb-Randall

Absent: 3 - Christopher L. Graham, Robert Needham, and Karie Slavik

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved with changes

17-0974 Environmental Commission Minutes from May 25, 2017

Attachments: MeetingMinutes 5-25-2017 FINAL

With the change to remove "vacant position 1" in the minutes, a motion was made by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, seconded by Councilmember Frenzel, that the minutes from 5-25-17 be Approved with changes. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

There was no public commentary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**17-0993** Solid Waste/Recycling Program Area Status Updates

Attachments: Environmental Commission Solid Waste Area Update_2017-06-22

Staff Matt Naud walked the Commission through a memo from Staff Cresson Sloten, P.E. Commissioner Mirksy asked some follow-up questions regarding the new Solid Waste staff position.

NEW BUSINESS**Discussion of Water Rates and Equity**

Chair Hutton introduced the topic for consideration by the Commission in the Fall. Commissioners Gibb-Randall and Mirsky expressed a desire for any income-based water rates to also take into account water usage to reduce water waste. Councilmember Frenzel expressed a desire to have a mandatory assistance program to reduce logistical burden on low-income households. Vice Chair Skinner asked if there was any outreach to low income households akin to DTE's energy efficiency outreach. Staff Naud reported that he and a couple of Commissioners has been invited to be on the City's Water and Sewer Cost of Service Customer Advisory Committee and that their work will be undertaken this fall. He further explained the City's inclining block rate structure. Commissioner Mirsky spoke about the limitations of DTE's energy efficiency program. Councilmember Smith reported that Council tried to work on water rates as part of the budget but did not have enough research to make changes and that Commission's work on this topic will be most helpful.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES AND CHAIR**Metrics Committee**

Chair Hutton reported that the first meeting will be the following day at 7:30am.

Pollinators Committee

Chair Hutton reported that Chair Slavik has sent around agendas and

minutes from this subcommittee.

Zero Waste Committee

Councilmember Frenzel reported that the Zero Waste Subcommittee has met three times. They also met with the Administrator and heard that many of the changes they are investigating can be done administratively. Creating a sustainable procurement policy will likely be the first topic to be addressed. Vice Chair Skinner added that the "Taste of Ann Arbor" was a zero waste event that was a success. Commissioners also talked about the lack of recycling bins in the DDA and in the Parks. Commissioner Mirsky and Vice Chair Skinner talked about how the City should liase with and learn from UM's solid waste efforts. Commissioner Hannah said that the volunteers for the "Taste of Ann Arbor" made a difference in the success of the event, and that recycling and compost bins should be where people congregate. Commissioner Gibb-Randall asked if the City had a plan for downtown restaurants to compost.

Natural Features Committee

There was no report from this subcommittee.

HRIMP Update to PAC

Staff Naud reported that he will be on the Parks Advisory Commission agenda soon to talk about HRIMP. There is an idea of starting a River Stewardship Committee.

Parks Advisory Commission

Commissioner Appel gave an update that there are over 200 people employed by Parks at the pools and the canoe liveries. He also shared that the Gallup Park bike path will be closed for 2 weeks for resurfacing sometime this summer.

Planning Commission

Commissioner Gibb-Randall reported that there was a joint working session with the Energy Commission on new solar legislation.

Energy Commission

Commissioner Mirsky reported that there will be a new Community Solar Subcommittee starting to provide multiple community solar options to residents who cannot or do not want to put solar on their homes.

City Council Update

Councilmember Smith reported that the Green Fleets Policy and a resolution recommitting the City to the Paris climate accords both passed Council unanimously. Commissioner Mirsky asked what it means that the City is supporting the Paris accords. Councilmember Smith replied that the Council resolution included a clear commitment to finding new funding for climate efforts in Ann Arbor. Staff Naud reported that there is exploration of whether sub-national units can join the Paris accords. Commissioner Mirsky asked when the City would be replying to the Commission's budget memo about prioritizing climate funding. Chair Hutton replied that Cresson Sloten has expressed a willingness to meet with Commissioners about this issue.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Staff Matt Naud spoke about the Pall Gelman site. He reported that the CARD group meets monthly and that the court case is ongoing. He also reported that he recently attended the Michigan Green Communities annual meeting, and that we were given a "gold" level award for sustainability. Also, DTE staff will meet with staff re: electric vehicle charging soon. The anti-idling ordinance goes into effect on July 1st, and Staff Naud has reached out to downtown businesses about it. He also reminded the Commission that there is a coal tar sealant ban in Ann Arbor.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

July 27 - County Solid Waste Plan Presentation
Waste Plan Presentation

July 27 - CBI MRF Memo

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is July 27, 2017 at 7pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

A Huron High school student asked for clarification about the subcommittees referenced earlier in the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hutton adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm.

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301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

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