

City of Ann Arbor

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

Thursday, June 7, 2012

4:30 PM

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

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair 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, Michael Garfield, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, Catherine Riseng, and Liz Rother

Absent 2 - Carsten Hohnke, and Shannon Brines

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by Susan Lackey

Susan Lackey, Executive Director of the Legacy Land Conservancy, addressed the commission regarding the Natural Area Farmland and Protection Program. She updated the commission on where they are and how the program ties into the county millage and greenbelt program. The Legacy Land Conservancy, who is under contract with Washtenaw County, manages the protection of Natural Area Farmland and Protection Program. She said that they would be looking at programs like the greenbelt to help leverage dollars to protect farmland in the future.

Ms. Lackey gave an overview of their first round of applicants. She said that 57 farms have applied which totals approximately 5600 acres that could potentially be protected. They have prioritized properties in Webster, Salem, Lima, Superior, York and Dexter. Their next steps are to notify other townships that they are considering for FRPP rights. Ms. Lackey then answered questions from the Commission.

Archer Christian introduction

Commissioner Garfield, introduced Archer Christian of the Ecology Center to the commission. Ms. Christian has back ground in agricultural organization and is interested in becoming a member of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. Ms. Christian said this was a long standing passion of hers and would enjoy the opportunity to serve on the commission.

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** [12-0827](#) Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of April 5, and May 3, 2012

A motion was made by Commissioner Rubin, seconded by Commissioner Riseng, that the meeting minutes of April 5 and May 3, 2012 be approved by the Commission with minor changes and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

B OLD BUSINESS

None.

C NEW BUSINESS

C-1 Staff Updates

Ginny Trocchio said that she is still waiting to hear from the Farm and Ranch program. She announced that the Mayor's Green Fair is scheduled for May 4, 2012 from 6-9 p.m. and said that if anyone was out and about to stop by their booth and say hello.

D NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None presented.

E REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

- E-1** [12-0925](#) Report from Strategic Plan Subcommittee

Ms. Trocchio presented the meeting notes of the Strategic Plan Subcommittee which consisted of a summary of the 3-5 year plan as well as the subcommittees next steps. The subcommittee will meet again in June. A copy of the meeting notes are on file in the City Clerk's Office.

- E-2** [12-0817](#) Update from Communications / Branding

Ms. Trocchio said that she and Commissioner Rother met to discuss improvements that could be made to improve publication and outreach of the Greenbelt in the community. Within that discussion they came up with ways to standardize publications with the Greenbelt program so that it would have a uniform look. To help with publicizing of the program, they plan to attend functions like the Mayor's Green Fair and the the landowner discussion panel that is scheduled in November at the District library. She discussed other ways of possibly getting the word out about the greenbelt through pamphlets and updated information being passed to residents. The commission discussed the improvements in more detail.

F COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was received from Jill Lewis, Executive Director of the Southeast Land Conservancy, thanking the City of Ann Arbor and the Greenbelt Advisory Commission for assisting with the acquisition of a property in Superior Township.

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 TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the Commission enter into Closed session to discuss land acquisition. On a roll call, the vote was as follows with the Chair declaring the motion carried (The meeting recessed at 5:52 p.m.:

Yeas: 7 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Garfield, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Riseng, and Commissioner Rother

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Hohnke, and Brines

MEETING RECONVENED

A motion was made by Commissioner Bloomer, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the be that the meeting reconvene. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 6:20 p.m.

[12-0926](#)

Motion to Recommend Approval of Purchase of Development Rights on Properties Identified in Application Numbers 2005-01, 2011-11, 2011-12, and 2011-13

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Riseng, to recommend to Ann Arbor City Council to proceed with purchase of development rights on properties identified in application numbers 2005-01, 2011-11, 2011-12, and 2011-13, if USDA Farm and Ranchland funds are received. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

6:22 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rother, seconded by Commissioner Riseng, that the meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Dan Ezekiel, Chairperson

**Anissa R. Bowden
Recording Secretary**

