

City of Ann Arbor

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

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

4:30 PM

G. C. Larcom, Jr. Municipal Building, 100 N. Fifth Avenue, 2nd Floor

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Hall called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. in Council Chambers, 301 E. Huron Street.

ROLL CALL

Present 7 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Jennifer Santi Hall, Gilbert S. Omenn, Commissioner Laura Rubin, and Peter Allen

Absent 2 - Carsten Hohnke, and Catherine Riseng

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the Agenda be approved with the following changes:

Add: Michigan Farmland Tax Assessments and Public Act 116 (Consider under old business.)

On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Riseng arrived at 4:38 p.m.

Present 8 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Jennifer Santi Hall, Gilbert S. Omenn, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, and Catherine Riseng

Absent 1 - Carsten Hohnke

1. 11-0620 Michigan Farmland Tax Assessments and Public Act 116

Commissioner Bloomer presented information regarding the Michigan Farmland Tax Assessments and Public Act 116. Public Act 1116 is a tax abatement act for farmland in Michigan, that the Governor has proposed to eliminate along with all

other industry based tax abatements. A copy of the points that Commissioner Bloomer put together is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

NEW BUSINESS

1. GAC Terms

Commissioner Hall said that she responded to a question from Mary Morgan of The Chronicle, about whose commissioner terms that would be expiring. She viewed information about membership of the commission on the website and noticed inconsistencies between different sources of information. This was relayed to staff and to the City Attorney to have it sorted out.

Attorney Fales said that she performed an audit of the resolutions from the inception of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. The spread sheet presented to the commission reflects the audit and shows historically who has been appointed to the commission and what terms the resolution indicated that they had. In relation to three of the commissioners, they were either a hold-over appointment of their previous position or they filled interim terms for people who resigned before their specific terms expired.

Ms. Fails said that she prepared a resolution that could be submitted to council that reaffirms everyone in their current positions, but restates the terms so that they start on July 1st of the year and end on June 30th of the year. That term period was selected for two reasons; 1) Because 2/3 of the current commission's terms already started that way, so it would bring the other three people into alignment with that statement and 2) Because it simplifies for submissions of notice of vacancies for the City Clerk. (A copy of the spreadsheet and proposed resolution is on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bloomer, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the Report be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

1a. 11-0619 Resolution to Restate the Terms of the Membership of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission

A motion was made by Commissioner Bloomer, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the proposed Resoltuion be approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

2. 11-1333 Updates on Farm and Ranchland Protection Program

Ginny Trocchio of The Conservation Fund gave a slide presentation on the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. She said that the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program passed their final rules for the 2008 Farm Bill. Two major changes have been made. They have come up with a certification process, where entities would be either certified or noncertified. Minor changes have been made to land eligibility and some of their scoring criteria. The primary change made was the certification process, looking at some entities that have more experience with farm and ranch to be able to become certified. Certified entities have no impact on an entity's ability to receive grant funding, so just as they have done in the past, they receive the grant applications, look at the scorings and the properties that are high-scoring. Those high-scoring properties would continue down the line and will fund as many of those

as they can with the money allocated. A copy of the slide presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

3. Staff Update

Ms. Trocchio said that they are still waiting to hear from the 2011 Farm and Ranch Grant and she hoped to have more information the next time the commission meets.

She announced that a joint Park Advisory Commission and Greenbelt Advisory Commission work session has been scheduled for June 7, 2011. The meeting location is still to be determined.

They have also been looking at dates to have a Greenbelt celebration at the Braun Farm. The time that works best for most people is June 16, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Trocchio also added that there are several closings that should be coming up next month, so they will be crossing the 3000 mark in the coming months.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

The next business meeting will be held in July. A representative from Scio township would also be coming to the July meeting with a presentation.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Garfield acknowledged the services of Commissioners Hall and Omenn and thanked them for all of the work they have put into the program and the commission.

Commissioner Ezekiel also thanked Hall and Omenn for the leadership they provided to the commission. He added that the Boundary Subcommittee reviewed the boundary maps and has generated a proposal for consideration at the July meeting. He asked that the Boundary Maps be included on the July meeting.

Commissioner Hall said this is would be her last official time for serving on boards and commissions with the city. She thanked everyone for their hard work and wished everyone well.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY (5 MINIMUTE MAXIMUM SPEAKING TIME - NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SPEAKING IN THIS SECTION.)

None.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Rubin, that the commission enter into Closed Session to discuss Land Acquisitions. On a roll call, the vote was as follows with the Chair declaring the motion carried and the meeting recessed at 5:22 p.m.

Yeas: 8 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Garfield, Commissioner Santi Hall, Commissioner Omenn, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Allen, and Commissioner Riseng

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Hohnke

MEETING RECONVENED

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Rubin, that the meeting reconvene. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 6:04 p.m.

1. **Application No. 2011-05**

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Rubin, to recommend to City Council to make an offer of \$127,200.00 on Application No. 2011-05. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Bloomer, 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.

Dan Ezekiel, Chairperson

Anissa R. Bowden
Recording Secretary