



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes

Environmental Commission

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

Thursday, October 25, 2018

7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Needham called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: 11 - Christopher L. Graham, Robert Needham, Chip Smith, Karie Slavik, John Mirsky, Mike Appel, Joshua Rego, Shannan Gibb-Randall, Anne Bannister, John Callewaert, and Stephen C Brown

Absent: 2 - Susan Hutton, and Allison Skinner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[18-1588](#) Environmental Commission Minutes from 6-28-2018 Meeting

Attachments: DRAFT meeting minutes 6-28-18 Environmental Commission.pdf

A motion was made by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, seconded by Councilmember Smith, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council and should be returned by 11/19/2018. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

[18-1831](#) Minutes from Joint Environmental and Energy Commission Meeting on 9-27-2018

Attachments: Draft meeting minutes Joint Commissions 9-27-18.docx

A motion was made by Graham, seconded by Callewaert, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City

Council and should be returned by 11/19/2018. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

No public commentary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

18-1833 Commission Bylaws Amendments

Attachments: Bylaws 10-25-18 draft clean.docx

Assistant City Attorney Chris Frost led the Commission through a review of edits to the Commission bylaws as proposed by the City's legal team. Commissioners debated the changes and gave some potential edits to Attorney Frost. Revised bylaws amendments will be re-presented to the Commission at its December meeting. Should those get approved at that meeting, they will go to Council for final approval.

Postponed for the Environmental Commission to reconsider on 12/6/2018.

18-1835 Draft Environmental Commission Bylaws Edits - Redline Version

Attachments: Bylaws 10-25-18 draft redline.docx

18-1836 Draft Environmental Commission Bylaws Edits - clean version

Attachments: Bylaws 10-25-18 draft clean.docx

18-1841 Resolution of Support for Governor Snyder's Recycling Funding Initiative

A motion was made by Graham, seconded by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, that the Resolution be Approved as amended by the Commission and Forwarded to the City Council and should be returned by 11/19/2018. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

18-1840 A bill to amend 1994 PA 451

Attachments: 0142217.pdf

18-1839 Senate Bill 493

Attachments: 2018-SIB-0943.pdf

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR

Commissioner Gibb-Randall gave an update from the Planning Commission. She reported that a few months ago, the Planning Commission tabled their first project because of the dioxane plume. She also reported that Planning has been working on metrics, and that the new DTE site is undergoing review. Other items for consideration include the health of the City's creeksheds, particularly Allen Creek.

Commissioner Mirsky reported that the last Energy Commission meeting was dedicated to a report out from Honeywell and an audit they did of some city municipal buildings. The Commission is going to look at developing a response to their analysis and develop an alternative that they think is more viable and have a greater payback to the City. The Commission is also working on two ordinances - a lighting ordinance and a time of marketing ordinance. In both cases, there are other ordinances like this that have been implemented around the country and they are using those as templates. The timetable for the lighting ordinance is targeted implementation (approval by Council) later first half of next year with the ordinance going into effect in July. They have also identified stakeholder groups for outreach. For Time of Marketing, they have already met with the Realtors Association. They have not set a target date for the Time of Marketing Ordinance. A sub-set of Energy Commissioners came up with the idea that there would be a listening tour of sustainability that would hold a series of meetings in each ward. The focus of the tour would be to get input from residents about where their concerns are, where they think the Commissions need to put more focus, and maybe even get into solutions. The idea is to send the white paper out in the next couple of days to get input on how to approve the proposal and then actually start with meetings at the end of this year or at the very latest in January of next year.

Councilmember Bannister reported that there is a strong appetite among existing and incoming Councilmembers to support solar for affordable housing and new EV chargers. Concerns centered around it being a budget amendment and with new Councilmembers coming on board

soon. Lots of excitement about the Office of Sustainability and Innovations and UM's new plan. The budget amendment is back on the Council agenda for November 19.

Councilmember Smith reported that the 15th was disappointing to everyone that voted to support that funding amendment. He postponed it so it would not be struck down hoping that the new Council might feel differently. He recommended that people continue to advocate for it. He stated that the work cannot get done without people to do it. He stated that the appetite to do climate work really is not there if it is not funded. He stated that the community has expressed that climate action and affordable housing are the two most important things, and that the City has not made much progress on either of those things. He is very hopeful that the new Council will be able to work collaboratively to find solutions that work for everyone.

Commissioner Mirsky expressed concern about the budget for the Office of Sustainability and Innovations. He stated that he would encourage Council to consider that it is not just this resolution which is FY19, but that the Council will be working on the FY20/21 budget which will really reveal what is Council's appetite for climate and environmental sustainability. He quoted that total expenditures for climate action are around \$560,000 which about 0.15% of total city expenditures. He expressed hope that if people look at everything the city is doing and the city's priorities that would be that there is more than .15% directed towards climate action. Stable funding is required.

Commissioner Bannister replied that the municipality is 2% of the GHG emissions with the other 98% being residents, businesses, and the University. She looks forward to communicating to the public about how we can all monitor our own carbon footprints.

Chair Needham gave a Chair's report that included that the Commission will revisit the bylaws again at the next meeting, including the requirement to develop an annual workplan. He asked Commissioners for agenda ideas a couple of months ago. Instead, he would like Commissioners to think about particular actions the Commission might tackle in the coming year. He urged Commissioners to think especially about things that improve the metrics around the City's sixteen sustainability goals.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Dr. Stults gave the staff report. Items in it included: Gold status through

the Michigan Green Communities Challenge; UM's Carbon Neutrality goal; and the Office's work with Dr. Tony Reames. She also highlighted the Office's participation with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, including that the organization's annual meeting for 2019 will be held in, that the City is doing a peer exchange around the rental housing licensing program, and that the City has two proposals in for an innovation fund – one on a resilience finance facility and the other on resilience hubs. She also reported that the budget amendment moved to the November 19th meeting – she will present a short executive summary. The Bryant Community Center will get a 6kw solar installation will be installed in coming weeks. The strategy for 100% clean and renewable energy was submitted to Council on September 17th. She invited Environmental Commissioners to consider serving on a few Energy Commission Subcommittees - EV Readiness Ordinance, Time of Marketing Ordinance, and 100% clean and renewable strategy implementation. She invited Commissioners to help organize for the upcoming National Climate Assessment event.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

*Gelman Plume update
Bylaws
Update on solid waste
Discussion about Allen Creek metrics and actions to make it healthier
PFAS (January)*

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Kristen Hayden spoke and shared that she is both a UM student and an Ann Arbor resident for the last 19 years. She commended the work the Commission is doing and asked that it continue to push on climate change. On behalf of the student groups, she asked that the City consider involving students because they want hands-on experience.

Councilmember Smith reported that he sent an email to the City Administrator asking for a City Council work session dedicated to climate change and local response. He noted that Council does not have a free work session period until January but that would set the Council up for the run-up to the budget discussions. He noted that generally staff determines what will be the topic of Council's work sessions and that he is hoping that Council can dedicate two hours of our time to have a detailed

discussion with UM experts about what different local actions the City can take to mitigate climate change.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Needham adjourned the meeting at 8:27pm.

All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:

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

Requests made with less than two business days' notice may not be able to be accommodated.