

City of Ann Arbor Environmental Commission

October 23, 2014

Action Meeting

G.C. Larcom, Jr. Municipal Building, Council Chambers
301 E. Huron, Ann Arbor, MI

Roll Call:

Present – 8

Mike Anglin, Wayne Appleyard, Sabra Briere, Katherine Hollins, Susan Hutton, Benjamin Muth, Allison Skinner, Patti Smith

Absent – 5

John German, Chris Graham, Missy Stults, Valerie Strassberg, Kirk Westphal

**Appleyard attending for Energy Commission representative, Mark Clevey*

Staff Present:

Jamie Kidwell

Matthew Naud

Call to Order:

7:10pm - Commissioner Hutton to serve as chair for meeting

Roll Call:

Quorum Present

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner Muth

Motion approved on voice vote

Approval of Minutes:

No formal meeting minutes to approve

Public Commentary:

None

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Landfill Remedial Action Plan Update

Patti McCall from Tetrattech provided an overview of the Ann Arbor landfill and the Remedial Action Plan (RAP). Tetrattech has been a consultant working on landfill monitoring and support since 2007. The RAP covers contingencies for monitoring and closure of the landfill, which does not currently accept waste.

- Hearing on Landfill Remedial Action Plan expected soon, as early as December or early 2015
- Landfill is located at the southwest corner of Platt and Ellsworth

Discussion:

Naud and McCall responded to questions from the commissioners.

- If that state changed 1,4 dioxane standards, how would this affect the City?
 - Need to investigate further. Could lead to adjusting purge well 2 at the landfill. Most recent Remedial Action Plan was submitted in 2013.
- Does purge well 1 extend around purge well 3?
 - Yes. Are currently looking at pilot to reduce both 1,4 dioxane and vinyl chloride.

- How do purge wells work?
 - 6-inch wells placed 35 feet deep with pumps. They pump water in and send out discharge pipe. It's a constant practice. To deal with iron levels and build up, acid wells are placed triangularly formulation around purge wells. Two types of acid are injected to break up bacteria and clogs.
- Is the acid used in the pump safe?
 - Is safe. Acid is pumped to break up build up and then discharged to sanitary. Soil and gas sampling was done for a Park Advisory Commission analysis and no vinyl chlorides were found. No drinking water wells are in this area, and contaminants are in the water and not in the soil. Plan is compliant with state laws.
- What are the next steps for the Remedial Action Plan?
 - Currently getting citizen input and working on deed restrictions so that water is not used. Once finalized will have public hearing.
 - Constantly looking for ways to treat contaminants. Funded out of solid waste millage, so are constantly looking for ways to treat contaminants but also balance funding for other solid waste programs.

Ann Arbor Climate Partnership Update

- City Council approved an \$85,000 contract to work with Clean Energy Coalition and the Ecology Center to further community-facing Climate Action Plan work
- Work will look at energy efficiency financing, outreach, and community solar
- Climate Action Plan was adopted in 2012 is available for download at www.a2energy.org/climate

Discussion:

- Need to take zoning and quality of life issues into account
- Aligns with the Sustainability Framework, which is a part of the City Master Plan
- Is Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) available for residential?
 - No PACE is only available for commercial buildings
 - Ann Arbor was first city in Michigan to have a PACE program
 - First round of PACE was over \$500,000 in bonds to fund energy efficiency work

Report from Committees and Chair:

Work Plan Update:

- Current commission work plan should be revisited given timelines and addition of new commissioners
- Should items connected to the Climate Action Plan be elevated?
- Visited Calvert's to investigate feasibility of construction and demolition ordinance
 - Need to consider providing assistance to non-profits
- Need to determine the best method to track and monitor air quality (Add Commissioner Muth to project)
- Potential to link idling and air quality discussion
- Look to adapt and existing widget to support sustainable behavior instead of developing new tool

Ann Arbor Climate Partnership Videos

- Commission aired the first video in a four-video series on local climate impacts in Ann Arbor
- Videos were funded with a grant from the University of Michigan Great Lakes Adaptation Assessment for Cities
- All four videos are available for viewing at: www.a2energy.org/climate.

Report from Staff:

Update by Naud and Kidwell

- Naud part of group that is making recommendations to state on part 201 criteria requirements
- Pall-Gelman
 - Developed report on directionality of plume, which shows plume is moving east
 - Sampling wells in Scio Township
- Sustainability Action Plan
 - Presented to City Council at beginning of month
 - Action Plan is an implementation tool

- Tool to incorporate work plan and identify items that staff is working on
- Expecting an updated draft in December
- Downtown Development Authority (DDA) asked to present on Street Framework Plan at next meeting
 - Collaboration between DDA and City
- Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) presentation in December or January
 - CIP prioritization tool incorporates the Sustainability Framework goals
- Sustainable Ann Arbor Forums in partnership with the Ann Arbor District Library are scheduled for second Thursday of January, February, March, and April
- City launched a2energy Loan Fund for Rental Housing that offers financing for 1-to-4 unit rental properties (www.a2gov.org/loanfund)
 - Funding from HUD Sustainable Communities grant and UM Dow Sustainability Award grant

Discussion:

- Commissioner Hutton and Kidwell are working on a calendar for current and new commissioners
- Councilmember Briere provided an update on the Burr Oak trees at the VA hospital
 - University of Michigan is looking into this issue

Items for Next Agenda:

- Prioritize top work plan items
- Street Framework Plan
- CIP Presentation

Next Scheduled Meeting:

December 4, 2014 at 7pm, Basement Conference Room

Adjournment:

Adjourned 8:25pm