



# City of Ann Arbor

## Formal Minutes - Draft

### Environmental Commission

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

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Thursday, September 24, 2020

7:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

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This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at [a2gov.org/watchCTN](http://a2gov.org/watchCTN)

To speak at public comment call: 213 338 8477 or 206 337 9723 (800 numbers unavailable)

Enter Meeting ID: 977 9197 1268

#### CALL TO ORDER

**Present:** 10 - Robert Needham, Karie Slavik, Mike Appel, Shannan Gibb-Randall, John Callewaert, Stephen C Brown, John Mirsky, Rita Mitchell, Julian Singleton, and Marie Gabrielle Buendia

**Absent:** 3 - Christopher L. Graham, Allison Skinner, and Jonathan Overpeck

#### ROLL CALL

*Both Commissioner Jonathan Overpeck and Commissioner Chris Graham joined us after the roll call.*

#### **This matter was**

**Present:** 11 - Christopher L. Graham, Robert Needham, Karie Slavik, Mike Appel, Shannan Gibb-Randall, John Callewaert, Stephen C Brown, John Mirsky, Rita Mitchell, Julian Singleton, and Marie Gabrielle Buendia

**Absent:** 2 - Allison Skinner, and Jonathan Overpeck

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Approved amended with the changes*

**This was passed unanimously**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*August minutes are amended to list Commissioner Rita Mitchell as Vice Chair instead of Vice President*

**A motion was made the minutes be amended as presented. On a voice vote, the Chairman Stephen Brown declared the motion carried.**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS****20-1477**

**Attachments:** Floodplain Management Overlay District Proposal Sept 2020 EC.pdf

*Jerry Hancock presented the final draft plan for an Floodplain Management Overlay District to manage construction and renovation projects in parcels located in either the floodway or flood fringe based on 2012 FEMA maps of same. This legal mechanism was designed to be compatible with both State UDC mandates and FEMA rules, allowing Ann Arbor to regulate future land development projects that are at risk of flooding. Ann Arbor's jurisdiction is limited to watersheds <2 square miles, while EGLE has authority for larger watersheds. Increasing rainfall will likely expand Floodway and Flood Fringe boundaries, to be determined by FEMA someday in the future. First Street Foundation maps are more up-to-date than FEMA maps, and were consulted. One goal is to raise the City's CRS point score from Class 6 to Class 5, providing flood insurance rate relief for 409 buildings in the floodplain. Most of these buildings are located in upper Allen Creek, and historic structures are allowed to maintain their integrity. Next steps include a second public meeting on October 8, 2020 on the ordinance. This was requested by a Neighborhood group, also there will be a flood plain demonstration at the meeting.*

**20-1474**

**Attachments:** 200924Gelman\_MattNaud.pdf,  
200924GelmanResolutionDRAFT.pdf

*20-1474 Commissioner Brown delivered a brief overview of the extensive 1,4-dioxane groundwater contamination commonly referred to as the "Gelman Plume". This plume, since 1966, has been advancing toward the Huron River upstream of the City's municipal water intake, and down the Allen Creek watershed. 1,4-dioxane is a common contaminant of consumer products and an increasing health concern prompting more stringent regulation by both Federal and State authorities. Previous lawsuits, of which the City of Ann Arbor is a party, resulted in negotiated consent judgments that were sealed from public view. The 4th amendment of this Consent Judgment was made public on August 31, with a Court date of October 22 marking a deadline for provision of public and party comments to the presiding Judge. Commissioner Brown submitted a DRAFT resolution and public comments by Matt Naud, a retired environmental City employee and resident impacted by the Gelman Plume, noting a primary concern of potential damage to First Sister Lake as proposed in this amended Consent Judgment. Consideration of a Resolution to City Council was postponed to a Special Meeting that will be scheduled ASAP by Commissioner Brown.*

**20-1475**

**Attachments:** 2020-HRWC\_ann arbor environmental commission.pdf

*20-1475 Paul Steen and Ric Lawson of Huron River Watershed Council presented an update of the 2008 HRWC Watershed Management Plan, which is pending formal approval by EGLE. Major changes were a shift in metrics for watershed health, to be more compatible with the IJC Lake Erie Consortium metrics and preserve consistency with older metrics as much as possible. Modest improvement was noted overall, with Allen Creek being an intractable outlier. Commissioners recommended that the City and HRWC: 1) Post more information at public access points about pollution concerns and warnings after rainfall; 2) Set SIMPLE long-term sanitary goals such that swimming, dog drinking, etc. be encouraged. Establishing an official City swimming beach is highly desired. Other recommendations are: 1) Rigorous enforcement and public awareness of the Pet Waste Law; 2) Rigorous enforcement and public awareness of the Fertilizer Law; 3) Rigorous implementation of the Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Implementation Plans; 4) Improved maintenance of City-owned Stormwater Detention Ponds. Dr. Paul Steen and Rick Lawson from the Huron River Watershed Council presented on Scoring Stream Health and the Watershed Management Plan*

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

*There were no calls in Public Commentary*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*Commissioner Brown noted that Bylaws updates were still in process and would be on the October agenda. Ms. Lily Faris was nominated as the second Youth Commissioner and Council is expected to act on her appointment by October 22.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Motion to move discussion to next week*

**On a voice vote, Chairman Stephen Brown declared the motion carried.**

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR**

*1. Committees: The Natural Features Committee will meet Sept. 25 on tree ordinance drafts, and will submit a SEAS Capstone project proposal to update Ann Arbor's Tree canopy inventory.*

*The Solid Waste Working Group will meet October 1*

*Other Commissions:*

*1. Energy Commission: John Mirsky was elected Chair, and is reorganizing this Commission, which is implementing tighter project management.*

*2. Planning Commission: The Floodplain Management Overlay Zoning District was reviewed last week, and will have a second reading on October 20 before proceeding to Council. Application for a PUD on Eisenhower Drive balanced environmental and affordable housing values, and represents solid progress in implementing new developments that respect these community values.*

*3. Parks Advisory Commission: Several residents had personally altered the landscaping in Leslie Park, replacing some turf grass with gardens and trees. Though consistent with Community values and goals, the authority for such actions does not exist. The Commission is striving to resolve this conflict.*

*Council: No updates, due to conflicting Council Meeting on the Gelman Plume consent judgment*

*Chair: No update*

**REPORT FROM STAFF**

*The Office of Sustainability and Innovations Department are currently recording a PSA entitled "I Have a Vision" to kick off our A2ZERO Ambassadors Course beginning in November of 2020 Galen Hardy will share the script for I Have a Vision and the A2ZERO Ambassadors Training Syllabus.*

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

*The Natural Features Work Group will manage the majority of topics TBD*

*Bylaws update 10'*

*Youth Commissioner appointment-Lily Faris 5'*

*Education Program for Tree Ordinance (Anne Bannister, Kathy Griswold)  
3'-20'*

*There will be a GHG Inventory presentation from OSI*

*Commissioner Robert Needham would like to follow up on the  
presentation from Jerry Hancock*

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

*October 22, 2020 7pm*

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting was adjourned at 10:23pm*

**This meeting was Adjourned at 10:23pm**

**ACTION POINTS**

- 1. Stephen Brown will schedule Special Meeting ASAP,*
- 2. Brian Steglitz will send Galen Hardy information on known sources of contamination in the Ann Arbor water system intake.*
- 3. Brian Steglitz will clarify City's responsibility to post signs and alert residents of PFAS fish advisory*
- 4. Chris Frost will provide updated ByLaws to the Commission by October 20, that include clauses on Youth Commissioners and typo corrections*
- 5. Anne Bannister will draft a resolution on Community Education about tree ordinances, for submission to Council by October 22.*

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

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