



# City of Ann Arbor

## Meeting Minutes

### Environmental Commission

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

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Thursday, March 23, 2017

7:00 PM

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

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#### CALL TO ORDER

*Chair Hutton called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.*

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 8 - Christopher L. Graham, Susan Hutton, Allison Skinner, Robert Needham, Chip Smith, Karie Slavik, Jason Frenzel, and John Mirsky

**Absent:** 2 - Benjamin Maier Muth, and Jarin Marocco

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Chair Hutton added two agenda items: a discussion of MRF Lessons Learned and a presentation about using volunteers.*

**A motion was made by Skinner, seconded by Graham, that the amended agenda be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**A motion was made by Councilmember Frenzel, seconded by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, that the minutes be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

**17-0373** Environmental Commission Minutes 2-23-17

**Attachments:** Meeting Minutes 2-23-17

**A motion was made by Councilmember Frenzel, seconded by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

#### PUBLIC COMMENTARY

*Jan Wright speaking for the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice spoke about having attended multiple meetings for the Resource Management Priority Team. Her group is supporting their recommendation, especially regarding organics management and the diversion of food waste.*

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*No unfinished business.*

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **17-0468** Protecting Monarchs and Pollinators

**Attachments:** Ann Arbor Environmental Commission presentation

*Manja Holland from the National Wildlife Federation spoke about her organization's efforts to research and support pollinating species such as the Monarch butterfly and native bees. She also urged the Environmental Commission to call together a Pollinators Subcommittee to develop a Pollinator Plan for the City. The video runs between 3:30 and 21:40.*

**Received and Filed**

##### **17-0465** Resource Management Team Update

**Attachments:** Resource Management Team update

*Commissioner Skinner walked the Commission through a memo with budget recommendations from the Climate Partnership's Resource Management Priority Team. One item in the memo recommended that the Commission drafting a zero waste event ordinance with funding for events. The next recommendation urged that the Commission support a multi-family recycling pilot project including funding for code enforcement; a .75 FTE code standards officer; and education and outreach materials. The next recommendation is to carry over the funding for the Downtown Organics Recovery Pilot that was allocated but not spent this year. The recommendation also includes a request for funding to implement actions identified in the Organics Management Plan. The last recommendation is to increase the City's recycling diversion rate for commercial properties from 30%. The total budget impact for FY17-18 is estimated at \$350,000, and the impact for FY 18-19 is estimated at \$615,000. Councilmember Smith requested that the Priority Team come back with the budget impacts broken up into one-time and recurring*

expenses. The video runs between 22:40 and 37:38.

#### **Received and Filed**

#### **Zero Waste Event Discussion**

*Councilmember Frenzel gave some background about the potential development of a Zero Waste Event Ordinance Subcommittee. Chair Hutton gave the Subcommittee until June to develop the ordinance.*

**A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Skinner, that a Zero Waste Ordinance Subcommittee be formed. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

#### **Budget Update and Discussion**

*Chair Hutton proposed creating a Subcommittee to recommend how the \$165,000 currently budgeted for climate programs will be spent. The work of this Subcommittee will end by the Commission's April meeting.*

**A motion was made by Councilmember Frenzel, seconded by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, that a Subcommittee to review for the \$165,000 budgeted for climate work be formed. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

#### **17-0464 Engaging Citizen Volunteers in A2 Sustainability Activities**

**Attachments:** 20170315 Engaging Citizen Volunteers in A2 Sustainability Activities

*Commissioner Mirsky gave a presentation about how to recruit and use volunteers to support Ann Arbor's sustainability efforts. The video runs between 46:30 and 1:12:43.*

**A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Graham, that a volunteer program to support the City's sustainability efforts be endorsed. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

#### **Metrics Committee Discussion**

**A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Frenzel, that a Metrics Subcommittee be formed to prioritize sustainability goals and measure the City's progress to meeting them. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

**MRF Lessons Learned Document**

*This document was first recommended by Councilmember Frenzel. The Commission plans to share it with the City Administrator. Commissioner Needham questioned the rigidity of having a template. Commissioner Mirsky stated that sustainability is a key goal of the City but it was not reflected in the MRF RFP criteria. Commissioner Appel recommended adding an advisory group of what values the public holds re: recycling. He stated that there was a conflict between what the staff valued (costs) and what the public or Commissioners valued (sustainability). Commissioner Mirsky said that there needs to be consistency between projects and RFPs by setting criteria and weights by referencing values.*

**REPORT FROM COMMITTEES AND CHAIR**

*Parks Commission (Appel): Parks are hiring. Amy Kuras is retiring and there is a new hire to replace her.*

*Natural Features Committee (Graham): The stormwater model and the stormwater rate study is available. Commissioner Graham requests that Jen Lawson give a presentation to the Commission soon. Also, he reports that there have been complaints about the amount of salt used on the paved surfaces around City Hall and wishes that facilities staff come up with a plan to greatly minimize its use.*

*Energy Commission (Mirsky): They heard Commissioner Mirsky's volunteer presentation. There is a soft roll-out of the Ann Arbor Solar Club, with first presentations in April. They are also working on the solar taxation issue.*

*City Council (Smith): Veronica Hannah's name has been put forward for a seat on the Environmental Commission.*

**REPORT FROM STAFF**

*Staff Matt Naud spoke about the coal tar and idling ordinances being implemented. No update on the new Solid Waste staff position.*

**STAR update**

*Staff Naud gave an update on the STAR Communities submittal process.*

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

*None.*

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

*The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, April 27th at 7pm.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

*None.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Hutton adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.*

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**City Clerk's Office  
301 E. Huron St.  
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