



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Environmental Commission

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

Thursday, December 3, 2020

7:00 PM

This meeting will be broadcast live on
CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99,
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953 0253 5952

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:01

INTRODUCTIONS

*Lisa Disch (City Council), Kathy Griswold (City Council), Lily Faris (Youth
Commissioner)*

ROLL CALL

Present: 11 - Christopher L. Graham, Robert Needham, Lisa Disch,
Karie Slavik, Kathy Griswold, John Callewaert, Stephen C
Brown, Jonathan Overpeck, John Mirsky, Rita Mitchell, and
Marie Gabrielle Buendia

Absent: 3 - Allison Skinner, Mike Appel, and Shannan Gibb-Randall

LAND HERITAGE STATEMENT

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as written

Approved as presented

Special Presentations

1. ANDREA AIUTO-Bird Center of Washtenaw County (10 Minutes)

Andrea Aiuto (Bird Center of Washtenaw County) An independent 501(3)c that rescues and rehabilitate wild birds, some 1400 annually, since 2017. Lots of public engagement with the schools, etc. Visit www.birdcenterwashtenaw.org to volunteer and/or donate.

[20-1829](#)

Office of Sustainability and Innovations Department presentation Missy Stults

[20-1819](#)

Missy Stults (City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations Department) seeking feedback for a proposed resolution to support basic goals and principle values of the A2zero.org project. A draft resolution will be presented at the January 28 meeting for discussion and vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

James d'Amour, 2771 Maplewood Dr. expressed support for the Flood Plain Management Resolution under consideration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of Previous Meetings

Approved minutes of 9/24, 9/29, 10/5, and 10/22 meetings after brief discussion and minor edits suggested by John Mirsky and others.

Approved as presented

[20-1828](#)

Approved

OLD BUSINESS

[20-1814](#)

[20-1816](#)[20-1827](#)[20-1902](#)

Floodplain Management Overlay Zoning District Resolution drafted by Commissioner Mitchell was amended after clarifying edits from Commissioner Gibb-Randall and Commissioner Needham.

The resolution passed unanimously by acclamation.

NEW BUSINESS[20-1826](#)

Council Member Kathy Griswold presented Council Enactment R-20-342 of Sept. 8, 2020 that requested the Environmental Commission to comment on Transportation Commission plans to re-write City Code Title III, Chapter 40 regarding landscaping on lawn extensions. After some discussion, it was decided that Chairperson Stephen Brown will draft a memo to Council and the Transportation Commission asserting the lack of clarity in the present City Code, rejecting the suggestion that Ordinance re-write be done exclusively within the Transportation Commission, and suggest that an ad hoc working group containing members of both the Environmental, Disability, and Transportation Commissioners perform this task to balance safety and sustainability values and clarify the language. Commissioners will be able to review, edit, then approve this memo before Chairperson Stephen Brown sends to Council and the Transportation Commission by Dec. 10.

Chairperson Stephen Brown suggested that the Commission's annual internal review activities be tabled and taken up in a special working session before January 28.

There was general agreement, so Chairperson Stephen Brown will schedule this 2 hour meeting in December or early January by Dec. 10.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR

Natural Features Working Group: SEAS Capstone project proposal will be presented to students to recruit expertise for the natural features inventory. The heritage and landmark tree ordinance drafts will soon be ready for consideration by Council

Solid Waste Working Group: Construction and Demolition pilot project and ordinance goal is led by Chairperson Stephen Brown. Net Zero Waste group is growing, led by Council Member Lisa Disch.

Reports by Other Commissions: Parks none

Planning none:

Energy Commission: Several ordinances drafted by the Energy Commission are being considered by Council on Dec 21, particularly the EV Ready ordinance that should be supported by Public Comment. The lighting ordinance requires a little more work, and should proceed to Council during 1Q21.

Reports from Council: 4th Consent Judgment regarding the Gelman 1,4-dioxane groundwater plume and potential appeal to EPA for Super Fund designation is under discussion at Council. A new Court date has been scheduled for January 11-13, 2021, where testimony will be heard from the various stakeholders.

Report from Chairperson: Public comment to the State Legislature about raising or eliminating the 1% Cap on distributed solar electricity is urgent. Please contact your state reps and the MPSC to support the "Powering Michigan Forward" bill package, especially SB 597 and HB 5145 to prevent blocking installation of solar panels by citizens and residents, which is now imminent.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Report from Staff: The A2zero Climate Ambassadors recruitment has been a great success, where 23 of 60 applicants could be accommodated for training and outreach goals. Meetings are every Wednesday from 7PM-9PM.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Resolution in Support of A2zero Energy Principles

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Mitchell will send the approved floodway overlay zoning district resolution to Council ASAP.

Commissioner Griswold will send more information to Chair Brown to assist draft of the Chapter 40 memo, which he will distribute by Dec 10.

Chair Brown will schedule a special Working Session by Dec. 10, to discuss internal goals and reports

Chair Brown will determine means of removing inactive Commissioners per the ByLaws

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

January 28, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:23PM

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

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