

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Action Minutes

Monday, June 11, 2018

7:00 PM

Work Session

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

City Council

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Taylor called the Work Session of the Ann Arbor City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Guy C. Larcom, Jr. Building, 2nd Floor Council Chambers, 301 E. Huron Street.

CC ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Present: 10 - Councilmember Jane Lumm, Councilmember Sumi Kailasapathy, Councilmember Chuck Warpehoski, Mayor Christopher Taylor, Councilmember Julie Grand, Councilmember Graydon Krapohl, Councilmember Kirk Westphal, Councilmember Zachary Ackerman, Councilmember Chip Smith and Councilmember Anne Bannister

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Jack Eaton

WS WORK SESSION

WS-1 [18-0977](#) Building a Healthy Ann Arbor - Recreation, Wellness, and Sustainability

Attachments: 180602 - Sustainability Visioning.pdf, Building a Healthy Ann Arbor.pdf, 2018-0611 A2DDA_PFS_CouncilWorkSession 061118.pdf

Howard S. Lazarus, City Administrator, presented the City's Sustainability Vision to the Council. Mr. Lazarus spoke about the City's new sustainability office that has been created and also the City's climate action plans and recycling efforts.

A copy of the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Derek Delacourt, Community Services Area Administrator, introduced the Parks Department team and spoke about the parks system in Ann Arbor. Hillary Hanzel, Parks Planner, played a video highlighting the success of the City's park system. Mr. Delacourt also introduced Colin Smith, Parks Manager, and Josh Landefeld, Deputy Parks Manager.

Ms. Hanzel noted that the parks system provides a green buffer along the Huron River and adds to the sustainability of the river.

Mr. Smith noted that Ann Arbor has 18.5 acres of parkland per 1000 residents, compared to the national average of 9.8 acres.

Mr. Landefeld spoke about the parks role in sustainability and the City's sustainability framework. He noted that solar panels are located at Veteran's Memorial Park.

Ms. Hanzel spoke about the diverse cultural, recreational and educational opportunities at the City's parks.

Mr. Smith stated the Parks Department is interested in having an economic impact study conducted for the City's parks.

A copy of the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Susan Pollay, DDA Director, introduced the DDA's presentation, People Friendly Streets. DDA Planner Amber Miller was also present.

Staff from the DDA spoke about proposed projects, including protected bikeways on William and First. DDA staff also addressed green streets and their efforts to promote the City's sustainability goals.

Staff also discussed a proposal to return First and Ashley from one-way to two-way traffic.

Councilmember Lumm requested additional information regarding the budget for the projects.

Councilmember Lumm also questioned the proposal for limited enforcement parking

on Huron Street, questioning what would happen if a vehicle was parked beyond 3:30 p.m., such as whether vehicles would be towed outside of the designated parking hours. She stated this could become very confusing for residents and visitors.

Councilmember Kailaspathy questioned the presentation of the public feedback, stating there was no definitive statistics provided by the DDA. She stated she would like to see actual numbers and a written record.

Councilmember Smith asked if the HAWK signal could be upgraded to a real traffic light sooner than the proposed Huron Street project, stating the safety need.

A copy of the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Received and Filed

PUBLIC COMMENT - GENERAL (3 MINUTES EACH)

Will Hathaway, resident, spoke about the citizen-initiated petitions he turned in to the City Clerk, stating the signatures were certified recently by the City Clerk. He said the City is still proceeding with the sale of the Library lot, despite the citizen-initiated question being approved for the November ballot. He stated the certification by the City Clerk should have frozen any future action on the site until the public vote.

An unidentified resident spoke about the process to develop a downtown park. She stated the citizen-initiated petitions for a Center of the City park were a last resort after Council ignored the desires of City residents.

Peter Nagourney, 914 Lincoln, spoke about the need for downtown parks and recreation. He stated health and wellness, as was just presented by City Parks staff, is also needed in the downtown. Mr. Nagourney noted that Liberty Plaza does not meet that need for residents and the City has done nothing to make that space more desirable. He also said much of the designated space for the public in the Core Spaces development has been given to the developer for private use, such as a private restaurant patio.

Odile Hugonot-Haber, 531 Third Street, spoke about the need for a downtown space, citing examples of many large public parks in the center of other popular cities.

Eric Lipson, 1318 Rosewood Street, thanked the Parks staff for their presentation. He stated staff has done a great job with the Argo Cascades and the Universal Access parks. He also spoke about the City's process for selling the city-owned land at 350 S. Fifth Avenue. He questioned the legality of the contract that the City entered into with Core Spaces. He stated the City Charter requires the City Council to approve the contract at the time of execution.

Edward Vielmetti, resident, spoke about the Parks Department presentation and the possibility of an under-pass for pedestrians at Vandemeer Park at the railroad. He noted that a fatal crash occurred today between a pedestrian and an Amtrak train near Gallup Park. Mr. Vielmetti stated there are many "unofficial" railroad crossings in the City's parks.

Norm Tyler, 126 N. Division, spoke about pedestrian crossing on Division Street. He thanked the City for the new signage, stating it is easier than ever to cross Division. He also questioned the penalty for violating the City's crosswalk ordinance, stating many out-of-towners don't know Ann Arbor's law. He asked Council to reconsider the steep fine; he also asked Council to advocate for a consistent State law.

Kathy Griswold, resident, spoke about comments regarding a possible State crosswalk law. She stated MDOT has released a draft law that may be introduced by Representative Ronnie Petersen.

John Mirsky, 505 Burson Place, spoke about topic-specific Council Work Sessions. He stated he wished these work sessions were measured against the City's Sustainability Framework, including showing benchmarks and progress toward goals.

A resident of Ann Arbor spoke about development and pollution, including the Dioxane Plume. He expressed his opposition to the sale of City-owned property to Core Spaces. He stated Ann Arbor has an opportunity to educate the community on the environment and the impact of long term pollution problems.

Alan Haber, resident, spoke about the Parks Department presentation and the discussion regarding the health of Ann Arbor. He spoke about the need for a Center of the City park and a community commons. He stated the center of downtown is the heart of the City.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Westphal, seconded by Councilmember Ackerman, that the meeting adjourn. On a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

COMMUNITY TELEVISION NETWORK (CTN) CABLE CHANNEL 16:

LIVE: MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018 @ 7:00 P.M.

REPLAYS: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018 @ 8:00 A.M. AND FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2018 @ 8:00 P.M.

REPLAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

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Live Web streaming or Video on Demand: <https://a2ctn.viebit.com>

Cable: Comcast Cable channel 16 or AT&T UVerse Channel 99

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

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A hard copy of this Council packet can be viewed at the front counter of the City Clerk's Office.

Jacqueline Beaudry
Clerk of the Council

Anissa R. Bowden
Recording Secretary