

City of Ann Arbor
Formal Minutes - Draft
Environmental Commission

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
[http://a2gov.legistar.com/
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Thursday, June 24, 2021

7:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm by the Chair

LAND HERITAGE STATEMENT

Read by Staff stand-in Josh McDonald

ROLL CALL

Present: 11 - Christopher L. Graham, Robert Needham, Lisa Disch, Kathy Griswold, John Callewaert, Stephen C Brown, John Mirsky, Rita Mitchell, Lunia Oriole, Yongwen Zhang, and Chris VandenBroek

Absent: 2 - Shannan Gibb-Randall and Jonathan Overpeck

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved unanimously as amended by Chair: 1) Table May minutes until July 22 meeting; 2) Add special presentation on NAP by Dave Borneman.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Garrett Hocking requested information about enforcement of the City's idling ordinance and whether the City had jurisdiction on University of Michigan property.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Natural Area Preservation Program

Dave Borneman presented the history and mission of the NAP department. He emphasized the ongoing need for more public education on invasive plants.

21-1215

Attachments: A2Presentation_CDick.pdf

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Postponed until July 22 meeting)

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2021
21-1040

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Gelman Plume update: Councilmember Griswold reviewed recent legal actions.

Chapter 40 Update: Postponed until July 22 meeting. Commissioner Mitchell will confer with Commissioners Griswold and Graham, and OSI Ambassadors.

NEW BUSINESS

Newly appointed Commissioners were introduced.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR

Natural Features–nothing new to report; work on the UDC to support landmark and heritage trees is ongoing.

Solid Waste Working Group– no update

Zero Waste Working Group-Councilmember Disch reported that Commissioner Callewaert and Staff member Jennifer Petoskey submitted a \$10k grant proposal to the EGLE NEXTCYCLE program for developing metrics.

Pollinators Working Group– No update

Energy Commission - Commissioner John Mirsky reported that OSI's Solarize program has added 1 MW of distributed solar capacity; an Energy Benchmarking resolution for both Commercial and Residential properties is close to completion; an ordinance requiring energy audits for single family homes at time of sale has been drafted; downtown solar and low carbon building materials are being discussed.

Planning Commission- No update

Parks: No representative present.

Council Report–Councilmember Kathy Griswold reported that Council approved a legal settlement for the City's discharge of Phosphorus to the Huron River.

Chairperson Report- The City is planning a Green Fair for October 1 and asked for Commissioners to commit to providing and attending an Environmental Commission table at the event. Receiving enough assent, he will notify the City of this commitment.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Staff Liaison Galen Hardy was absent. His stand-in, Josh MacDonald, announced that he would soon be leaving OSI for another opportunity.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Chair Brown will request OSI staff distribute NAP brochures during 10,000 tree events.*
- 2) Commissioner Needham will communicate the need for clarity on the City's website about the conflict between deer and forest management, including links to information provided by Cornell University and the City's own NAP website.*
- 3) Commissioner Mitchell will communicate the issues around Chapter 40 of City Code with the new commissioners.*
- 4) Chair Brown will assemble background information and details of the City's legal settlement on phosphorous discharges to the Huron River.*
- 5) Chair Brown will draft and circulate a shared document where Commissioners can state their interests and skill sets.*
- 6) Commissioner Needham will engage with Huron Valley Humane Society to set ground rules for their September presentation rejecting the need for a deer cull, including proposed alternative solutions and costs.*

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

July: Chapter 40 update from Commissioner Mitchell, review of Ann Arbor's discharge of phosphorus to the Huron River from Chair Brown.

September: Review of the deer management plan in Ann Arbor, including special presentation by Huron Valley Humane Society.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be on July 22, 2021 at 7pm

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 09:50pm

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

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