

# City of Ann Arbor

100 N. Fifth Avenue  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
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## Action Minutes

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

4:30 PM

County Board of Commission Public Meeting Room - 220 N. Main  
St.

**Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)**

**CALL TO ORDER**

*Commissioner Laura Rubin officially called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 100 N. Fifth Ave, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

**ROLL CALL**

**Present** 8 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Jennifer Santi Hall, Laura Rubin, Sylvia Taylor, Peter Allen, and Carsten Hohnke  
**Absent** 1 - Gilbert S. Omenn

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

*None.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

*None.*

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Approved as presented**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

[09-0026](#) Greenbelt Advisory Minutes of November 5, 2008  
**Approved by the Commission and forwarded**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

*None.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

*None.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Strategic Direction Discussion**

*Jennifer Fike, Executive Director of Food System Economic Partnership (FSEP) addressed the Commission regarding the FSEP. FSEP is a nonprofit organization working on agricultural development. She explained that it is a farm to school kind of program. The organization works with those interested in learning how to farm, providing the tools needed to get started by conducting workshops which include visits to farms as well as "farm mentoring" with local farms. Ms. Fike then answered questions from the commission.*

*(Omen arrived at 4:45 p.m.)*

*Status of the Real Estate Market*

*Peter Allen discussed the status of the real estate market. He explained that within the last five years, the market has come an abrupt halt. Development sites are partially built out and some have roads and utilities installed, with no sign of more*

*building on those sites and the sites are not even being sold.*

*He added that farmers are in a state of denial or disbelief. They discussed with some farmers earlier the price for renting the farms. The fair market value for renting should be \$300.00 to \$400.00 dollars per acre, per year. Appraisers have said that the depth of the market for this kind of agriculture does not have enough evidence to use it in an appraisal. Mr. Allen concluded by saying that he could provide more information regarding this if needed at the next regular session of the Commission.*

*Commissioner Hall asked that if she could find out what our ability to go outside of the appraisal process be discussed at the next Strategic Planning Session.*

*Commissioner Garfield said that he would like to come to some kind of agreement and consensus about the Preservation Strategy. He added that given what's changed in the market a different strategy is needed. He asked that staff or the Ad Hoc Committee organizing this put together some ideas for the February work session.*

**Present** 9 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Jennifer Santi Hall, Gilbert S. Omenn, Laura Rubin, Sylvia Taylor, Peter Allen, and Carsten Hohnke

## 2. Land Preservation signs

*Ginny Trocchio said that she discussed the idea with Preserve Washtenaw and everyone was in support of having signs in the land preservation areas. Several options were given; one was a wood sign which can be painted in different colors, another was a standard metal road sign, and a plastic sign which would be etched in with a design.*

*Commissioner Ezekeil stated that he would like to see the words City of Ann Arbor Greenbelt printed on the sign.*

*Commissioner Hall said that she liked the idea of having a uniform Preserve Washtenaw, and also point out whenever possible the individual funding and sources included.*

*Commissioner Bloomer said that it is important to have a unifying sign regardless of the agency involved. The point for people is preserving the land. He added that it is also important to include the words "private property" on the sign.*

*Commissioner Rubin said that the signs could model the type of land being preserved.*

*After further discussion, the commission suggested that a uniform Preserve Washtenaw logo be created, and under that sign give credit to all of the organizations that contributed in the preservation of that particular land.*

## 3. Staff Update

*Ginny Trocchio, said that she would be speaking about the Greenbelt Millage at the February meeting.*

*Commissioner Garfield asked for an update on the RFP review with the legal department. Ms. Trocchio said that the legal department has not had the time to review the RFP because of all of the other documents that have had to review.*

*Commissioner Hohnke said they would touch base with Jayne Miller and City Attorney to get a time frame on when the RFP would be reviewed.*

**NEXT AGENDA ITEMS**

*None presented.*

**REPORT FROM COMMITTEES**

*None.*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

*None.*

**CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER LAND ACQUISITION**

**that Council enter into Closed session**

**Yeas:** 9 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Garfield, Commissioner Santi Hall, Commissioner Omenn, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Allen, and Councilmember Hohnke

**Nays:** 0

**ADJOURNMENT**