

City of Ann Arbor

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

Thursday, February 7, 2013

4:30 PM

City Hall, 301 E. Huron St., 2nd Floor, Council Chambers

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Ezekiel called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. in Council Chambers, 301 E. Huron Street.

ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, Archer H. Christian, and Christopher Taylor
Absent 2 - Catherine Riseng, and Shannon Brines

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the Agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

(4 SPEAKERS MAXIMUM - 5 MINUTE SPEAKING TIME - SIGN UP MUST TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO THE MEETING BY NOTIFYING THE CHAIR OR CITY STAFF. THIS SECTION OF PUBLIC COMMENTARY IS LIMITED TO ITEMS RELATED TO THE AGENDA.)

A student from Skyline High School said that he and other students in the audience were there to observe the Greenbelt meeting for a class assignment.

A APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A-1 13-0129 Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2012

A motion was made by Commissioner Christian, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, that the Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2012 be approved by the Commission with changes and forwarded to the City Council for filing. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

B OLD BUSINESS

Present 7 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, Catherine Riseng, Archer H. Christian, and Christopher Taylor
Absent 1 - Shannon Brines

None.

C NEW BUSINESS

C-1 Resolution in Appreciation of Staff and Partners' Work on End of Year Closings

Commissioner Ezekiel said that December was a great month for the greenbelt. They had four properties closing that month. It was a big push because the tax laws were changing in January 2013 and farmers wanted the closings to happen quickly. The Commission honored some people who worked diligently to make those closings happen.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rubin, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the Commission adopt the following resolution:

Resolution in recognition of the exceptional work by Mary Fales, Matt Keir, Roseanne Bloomer and Staff for the 2012 Land Acquisitions.

Whereas, Mary Fales is the Senior Assistant City Attorney for the City of Ann Arbor and provides legal counsel for the Greenbelt Land Acquisition deals;

Whereas, Matt Keir is Vice President of Liberty Title, the City's closing agent for land transactions;

Whereas, Roseanne Bloomer is a Lending Officer for Green Stone Farms Credit Services;

Whereas, Ginny Trocchio, provides staff services to the Greenbelt Program;

Whereas, The City of Ann Arbor's Greenbelt Program completed four transactions in the month of December 2012; and

Whereas, These transactions represent critical lands the Greenbelt Program identified as priorities and allowed the Greenbelt Program to surpass 4100 acres protected;

RESOLVED, That the Greenbelt Advisory Commission recognize Mary Fales for her exceptional legal counsel in relationship to greenbelt land transactions to ensure timely completion of conservation easements;

RESOLVED, That the Greenbelt Advisory Commission recognize Matt Keir for his exceptional service provided to the City of Ann Arbor's greenbelt for end of year closing;

RESOLVED, That the Greenbelt Advisory Commission recognize Rosanne Bloomer for expediting necessary documents for end of year closing;

RESOLVED, that the Greenbelt Advisory Commission recognize Ginny Trocchio for her service to the Greenbelt Program.

On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

C-2 Staff Updates

DRAKE FARM CLOSING

Ms. Trocchio said that a closing of the Drake Farm took place last week in Lodi Township.

THE CONSERVATION FUND CONTRACT RENEWED

Ms. Trocchio said that City Council approved a renewal of their contract at their last meeting. She thanked Council for approving the contract and said that she was really please with continuing her work with the Commission and the City.

CHERRY REPUBLIC DONATION

Ms. Trocchio announced that Cherry Republic has made another donation to the greenbelt in the amount of \$5000.00. They also made a donation of \$2500.00 a couple of years ago. A portion of the Republic's profit is spent on contributing to farmland preservation in the areas where they have stores one of which is in Ann Arbor. They have also contributed to areas up North as well as the Glenn Arbor area where the home store is located.

VACANCY ON THE COMMISSION

Ms. Trocchio announced that Liz Rother has resigned from the Commission and there is a vacancy now on the board. Ms. Rother served as an at-large member on the board. Interested persons may contact the Mayor's Office for an application for membership to the Commission.

2012 STRATEGIC PLAN

Commissioner Christian asked for an update on the 2012 Strategic Plan. Ms. Trocchio said that she hoped to have the plan before the Commission at their next meeting.

D NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

2012 Strategic Plan

Present 7 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, Catherine Riseng, Archer H. Christian, and Christopher Taylor

Absent 1 - Shannon Brines

E REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

None.

F COMMUNICATIONS

COMMISSIONER EZEKIEL

Commissioner Ezekiel said that in addition to the current vacancy of Liz Rother, that three more vacancies would be coming this summer. Interested persons should contact the Mayor's Office for an application of membership to the Commission.

LAURA RUBIN

Commissioner Rubin said that she was invited to speak in front of the Environmental Journalism at the University of Michigan with Craig Welch who is a homebuilder in the area and had been in charge of the opposition to the original Greenbelt Program. There was approximately 40 students predating the greenbelt initiative. She said that it was interesting to discuss with Craig the initial support and opposition to the Greenbelt Program.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY (5 MINIMUTE MAXIMUM SPEAKING TIME - NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SPEAKING IN THIS SECTION.)

None.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUS LAND ACQUISITION

A motion was made by Commissioner Christian, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the Commission Closed session to discuss Land Acquisition. On a roll call, the vote was as follows with the Chair declaring the motion carried (The meeting recess at 4:48 p.m.):

Yeas: 7 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Riseng, Commissioner Christian, and Councilmember Taylor

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 - Brines

MEETING RECONVENED

A motion was made by Councilmember Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Bloomer, that the meeting reconvene. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 5:26 p.m.

Application Nos. 2011-13 and 2013-02

A motion was made by Commissioner Riseng, seconded by Commissioner Rubin, to recommend to City Council to apply for USDA Farm and Ranchland Grant Funds on properties identified in Application Nos. 2011-13 and 2013-02. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

Application No. 2012-11

A motion was made by Commissioner Riseng, seconded by Commissioner Christian, to recommend to City Council to Partner with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation for the Purchase of Development Rights on the property identified in Application No. 2012-11 and allocate funds not to exceed 25% of the purchase price. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Rubin, that the meeting adjourn. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion

carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Dan Ezekiel, Chairperson

Anissa R. Bowden
Recording Secretary