



City of Ann Arbor

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

Meeting Minutes Energy Commission

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

6:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Wright called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No quorum to approve agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No quorum to approve minutes.

13-1251

Ann Arbor Energy Commission Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2013

Attachments: DRAFT Minutes Energy Commission 7-9-13

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Geisler: November 4-8th at U of M campus, GLISA adaptation week. Nov. 4th at 1pm is Climate Symposium in Palmer Commons. Nov. 6 Climate Town Hall at 4-5:30 pm at Hatcher Library. More:

www.sustainability.umich.ed/events/climate-adaptation-week-graham-institute.

Ann Arbor part of six total cities working with GLAA-C at U of M on adaptation - daylong meeting Thursday of that week. City received a \$12,500 grant from GLAA-C for Climate Action Plan outreach and likely video development.

Renewable Report delivered by MPSC, at: www.michigan.gov/energy (accepting public comments until October 16). Comm. Kurz suggested adding Commission comment to the draft as part of the agenda dealing with MPSC input.

Hieftje: Council made two nominations for Energy Commission: Erik Eibert and Elizabeth Gibbons (replacing Cliff Williams and Josh Long).

Wright: IPCC issued fifth major report - have endorsed ceiling for greenhouse gas emissions and established a target for emissions to avoid permanent climate change. Detroit Free Press describes Renewable Report from the state

which states a 30% renewable standard by 2030 is attainable (a level comparable to the ballot initiative from 2012 that did not pass). Article also points out that renewable surcharges by utilities have been decreased significantly. Consumers proposing to charge \$0 for their RPS target and DTE dropping from \$3 per meter, per month to \$0.43.

XSeed Energy - Bonnie Bona

Bonnie Bona (Clean Energy Coalition): XSeed was designed to overcome installation barriers for solar at the time (3 years) - by providing a low cost to entry. Bona acknowledged advisory committee for XSeed. XSeed was launched in 2010 with the same funding that created the Ann Arbor Solar Plan, by the Clean Energy Coalition. XSeed uses a donation business model. Many community models are trying investment models. The goal was to raise over \$60,000 in first year; raised over \$23,000 in three years in spite of a recession. About \$4,000 donated by individuals, the rest by company sponsors. Solar America Cities funding ended near the end of 2010, but CEC Executive Director wanted to fulfill obligation in the grant.

We now have 3.24 kW of solar on the Michigan Theater roof. Intended to be more high visible for public or non-profit entity. In 2010 per watt cost of solar was over \$10/watt and in 2013 closer to \$3/watt. Making this install more visible would have doubled the cost, so it went on the roof. This system has a 15-year payback before tax credits (which non-profit Theater/CEC not eligible for). Educational component is the biggest part of how XSeed works. Energy efficiency is still what we should be focused on - solar a means to educate about this. Michigan Theater will be upgrading marquee lights to LED as part of the broader project and will get a 90-95% energy savings (3 year payback on bulbs). Theater is also launching a "green capital campaign" to ensure energy efficiency in a number of upgrades happening to the property and its equipment. Once the marquee bulbs are in place the solar panels will provide the equivalent energy they will use. Sponsors for this install will be featured on posters inside and outside of Theater (for at least 3 years). Slides at start of films will also feature XSeed project. Solar Plug-in event is also something planned and happening next year to raise awareness of the project.

What is next for XSeed? Took much longer to raise even less money than envisioned, so the advisory committee should step back and think about how to proceed. Options are to proceed under the current model; give out solar grants with remainder; look at version 2.0 of Xseed into something else - maybe an investment model works given drastic reductions in solar costs. MI Solar Collaborative is something new CEC is overseeing across the state that could influence the direction of XSeed. Solar Plan and Climate Action Plan guide XSeed so am welcoming involvement from the Energy Commission, including participation on the XSeed advisory committee.

Kurz acknowledged importance of Michigan Theater project in terms of recognizing the magnitude of energy's role in our lifestyle and as means of implementing something in the downtown consistent with city climate goals.

Shriberg stated how a category of community solar could be met utilizing XSeed in some of the public/non-profit (iconic) places. Economics have changed dramatically and this can really help drive neighborhood type community solar, especially figuring out a way to capture the tax benefits using some of the creative models now happening.

Mayor Hieftje stated that exposure will be high at Theater despite panels having limited visibility (with prominent displays inside). This also marks the second time Ann Arbor Historic District has approved solar on a building.

Wright brought up Commission's committee examining Community Solar and the opportunity to join efforts with XSeed.

Community Solar

Wright: Subcommittee put together a list of questions for GLREA, having to do with transferring of tax credits and property tax concerns. Discussion also of submitting comments to MPSC regarding DTE renewable plan and how community solar can be incorporated. Two community groups in town are trying to figure out how to move forward with community solar and more are welcome to be involved with the committee.

Fossil Fuel Divestment

Shriberg: Since last Commission meeting, our resolution went to City Council but fell short of votes, but was re-raised at Council about three weeks ago where it was tabled until October 21st meeting. (Hieftje clarified that this could be re-introduced by a member of the prevailing vote, in this case Margie Teall.). We have a series of questions from Council responding to informally. Most deal with fees if the city changed the management of retirement fund. Not much discussion about the issue of climate change or how it poses a risk to return on investment. We are re-emphasizing that nothing we recommend or that Council can adopt supersedes the fiduciary responsibility of the Pension Board. While not having a quorum now the Commission can send revised language the Commission is comfortable with (and coming from the Commission) for Council to consider for the resolution to help address questions and concerns.

Kurz discussed whether a need for special session was warranted for adopting new recommended language from the Commission. Mayor Hieftje did not think this was necessary, as Council has ability to modify the resolution language. Contact via email or phone in support of the resolution from public or Commissioners would accomplish the same. (Shriberg noted Council has received over 400 supportive comments on the resolution between petitions and emails.)

MI Public Service Commission Input

Wright: Have until November 5th for comments to DTE renewable plan, and October 16th for the State's draft report on renewables. Kurz noted that reporting on the plan indicated the state's report was quite positive with respect to supporting renewables, but is unsure if the Energy Commission should still comment to offer an exclamation point to the findings in addition to what we can do as individuals. Wright stated that electric choice and energy efficiency reports will also be coming out in the middle and end of October as another point for input, however, comments for these are due November 6th so Commission would not have the opportunity to read and respond to the report in that time (as it occurs before the next Commission meeting).

Shriberg stated a concise set of comments for the state's renewable report could be that their findings are consistent with the Ann Arbor Climate Action Plan, and that even stronger renewable standards would take us even further. Wright noted Chairman Appleyard has offered comments for related public input opportunities when it is simple to have them affirm with City climate and energy goals. Kurz offered to draft a statement acceptable to Commissioners. Wright offered to draft comments in support of community solar, and can provide Commissioners with the docket information for the DTE filing.

Commercial Energy Disclosure

No update.

D1 Zoning Input

Kurz stated that Planning Commission is reviewing D1/D2 zoning and is not sure there has been a focus on the energy premiums. Hieftje noted it may be a month or two before recommendations are back before City Council. Chairs of Energy, Environment, and Planning have discussed the issue.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Climate Action Plan

Energy Production

Renewable Energy Access

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Continue with open items regarding: community solar, fossil fuel divestment, MPSC input, and zoning review. Also reformulating naming or structure of committees to be consistent with the latest work.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM

Visit www.a2energy.org for community energy information in Ann Arbor,
or
www.a2gov.org/energy to learn more about the City's Energy Programs

Regular meetings shown Live and relayed on CTN Channel 16 and at
www.a2gov.org/ctn