



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes

Environmental Commission

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
[http://a2gov.legistar.com/
Calendar.aspx](http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)

Thursday, September 26, 2019

7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: 8 - Susan Hutton, Robert Needham, Mike Appel, Shannan Gibb-Randall, Anne Bannister, John Callewaert, Stephen C Brown, and Jonathan Overpeck

Absent: 5 - Christopher L. Graham, Allison Skinner, Chip Smith, Karie Slavik, and John Mirsky

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hutton, seconded by Callewaert, that the minutes be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[19-1865](#) Env Commission Minutes from 8-22-19 Meeting

Attachments: Meeting Minutes Env Commission 8-22-19.pdf

A motion was made by Callewaert, seconded by Needham, that the minutes be approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Robin Yu and Ken Garber both urged the Commission to adopt a net zero carbon emergency declaration to meet carbon neutrality by the end of 2025 and to take this up at the October 24, 2019 Commission meeting. A petition with over 500 signatures from Ann Arbor residents was submitted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**Update on SWRMP process**

Chair Brown gave a brief recap of what has transpired in regards to the Solid Waste Resource Master Plan (SWRMP). Staff Emily Drennen gave an update on solid waste issues prepared by Staff Craig Hupy:

**Staff are currently working to collect, review, and address comments from City Council regarding the SWRMP. Once those comments have been addressed, staff plan to come back to the Commission in October to share their proposed revisions.*

** The City received two responses for restarting the Materials Recovery Facility. These proposals will be reviewed and the goal is to go to Council with a recommendation by the end of October.*

** An offer has been made to a new solid waste manager. This person has accepted but is still working their way through the new hire process. The hope is that they will be on board in October.*

19-1864 Process for City Commission involvement in the selection of a firm responding to an RFP

Attachments: CityCommissions_RFPevaluation_draft_css.pdf

NEW BUSINESS

19-1851 Ann Arbor Greenhouse Gas Inventories

Attachments: GHG presentation Final (ENV).pdf

Staff Josh MacDonald gave a report on the City's greenhouse gas inventories from 2015-18. (The video for this item runs between xx and xx.)

Ethics Presentation (Chris Frost and Kelly Beattie)

Staff Kelly Beattie gave a presentation about the processes for applying and reapplying for Commission. Staff Chris Frost gave an overview of the ethics and the bylaws of the Commission, and how to use parliamentary procedures for running meetings.

19-1857 Open Meetings and Record Retention

Attachments: Open Meetings and Record Retention.pdf

19-1858 Parliamentary Procedure Guidance

Attachments: Parliamentary Procedure-Guidance.pdf

19-1859 Environmental Commission Bylaws 12-6-18

Attachments: Bylaws 12-6-18.pdf

19-1860 Boards and Commission Orientation Presentation

Attachments: Member Orientation_Boards and Commissions.ppt

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR

Planning: none

Energy: none

Parks: They voted to replace the gates of the Geddes Dam for \$1.2 million. Parks \$389,000 available for Parks Fairness Fund, of which \$100,000 was dedicated to skate park lighting including sustainability features such as solar or dark sky compliant lighting. It was recommended that solar carports be used to improve the quality of the water run-off into the stormwater system. Stream stabilization project meeting next week.

Natural Features: Meeting on Friday. Focusing on conservation of natural features such as heritage trees. Concerned about the recent news that the population of birds in North America have declined by 30%. It was recommended that the Working Group look at how the Natural Features Ordinance could be amended to improve connectivity between natural areas and parks.

Solid Waste: None

Water: None

City Council: Working on many different Environmental Commission-related goals recently. Examining mirroring the actions of the County by declaring a climate emergency and setting a net zero carbon goal by the end of 2025.

Chair: Shared the document laying out the process for Environmental Commission involvement in the MRF RFP review. Meeting is 9-3 next Tuesday. The City's composting facility is run by WeCare Organics who is giving tours.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Staff Drennen gave a brief update from the Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI). Volunteers will be installing solar on Firehouse 6 on October 17th and 18th. Anybody who would like to participate can contact Josh MacDonald. OSI welcomed a new staff member, Galen Hardy. He will be in charge of community engagement. OSI will be working in partnership with UM to host a weeklong celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day.

COMMUNICATIONS

[19-1853](#) Letter from Dan Ezekiel

Attachments: Remarks to A2 City Council re SWRMP 9.09.19.pdf

Resolution endorsing the declaration of a Climate Emergency to restore a safe climate

[19-1904](#) Resolution endorsing the declaration of a CLIMATE EMERGENCY to restore a safe climate (part 1)

Attachments: climate emergency petition file 1.pdf

[19-1905](#) Resolution endorsing the declaration of a CLIMATE EMERGENCY to restore a safe climate (part 2)

Attachments: climate emergency petition file 2.pdf

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

*An in-depth discussion about the declaration of a climate emergency.
Food Gatherers presentation about food waste.
SWRMP update.*

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

October 24th, 2019 at 7pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Rita Mitchell spoke about the possibility of the City adopting a resolution declaring a climate emergency and that each project in the City budget should include sustainability components. She also wished that the UM President's Carbon Neutrality Commission should include all the campuses.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:24 pm.

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

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