



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, July 27, 2017

7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: 10 - Allison Skinner, Robert Needham, Jarin Marocco, Chip Smith, Karie Slavik, Veronica Hannah, Mike Appel, Joshua Rego, Shannan Gibb-Randall, and Wayne Appleyard

Absent: 4 - Christopher L. Graham, Susan Hutton, Jason Frenzel, and John Mirsky

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Slavik, that the agenda be Approved. On a voice vote, the Vice Chair declared the motion carried.

[17-1152](#) Environmental Commission Minutes 6-22-17

Attachments: DRAFT meeting minutes 6-22-17

Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council due back on 8/28/2017.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Wendy Zielin, a 40 year Ann Arbor resident who lives on Silver Lake, spoke about finding out that the trees ringing Silver Lake were being cut down in March. She later found out that the Rover pipeline was being rerouted around their lake. Every weekend, about 90 visitors, many from Ann Arbor, visit their lake. Ann Arbor YMCA has their day camp less than 300 feet from the centerline of the pipeline, which puts them in the "blast zone". Silver Lake is a spring-fed lake which leads into the intake for Ann Arbor's drinking water 12 miles downstream. Ohio's Rover pipeline had a

5 million gallon spill in April, which led to the federal government shutting them down. In Ohio, they used “horizontal directional drilling” at the spill point. They plan to use that same process just north of Silver Lake. All of the people who live at Silver Lake, the YMCA day camp, a hunt and fish location, and the state park with 500 parking spaces, would have no way of evacuating if there were a pipeline emergency, which is unique in the United States. The company has refused to add odorant which would act as a warning of a problem. They have spoken with all of their elected officials and agency leaders but no one will stop the permit. In response to a question from Vice Chair Skinner, the speaker said that people could get involved by visiting www.overwithrover.com.

Rebecca Schnetzer, Vice President for Membership and Programs at Ann Arbor YMCA spoke about the organization’s concern for the safety of the 110 children and 15 staff located at Camp Burkett for the 10 weeks of the year that they run the camp. Children are dropped off and picked up every day by their parents or by bus. If there were a pipeline emergency, “their children would be trapped”. Because the pipeline runs underneath roads, they would be unable to get buses in for the children leading to a water evacuation for children as young as five years old. They have done research into other options for locating the pipeline back to the original location which would give them evacuation access for their children. In a response to Commissioner Hannah, Wendy Zielin replied that they have sent letters to many parties, filed two motions federally, and a request to the Army Corps of Engineers, to which no party has responded.

Washtenaw County Vice Chair, Michelle Deatrick, represented herself (and not the County Board) when she spoke about the Board’s two resolutions opposing the Rover pipeline and its concern about the lack of an odorant. She spoke about a leak in Washtenaw County from last week where the odorant alerted people in time to evacuate. She believes that they do not want to put an odorant into the pipeline to save money. She continued by saying that this process has been “a monumental failure from the federal government” and that the federal regulatory commission has been acting as a “rubber stamp” by failing to ask critical questions. She said that this issue is part of a larger problem because when this pipeline is built, they will build Nexxus through the eastern part of the county through Ypsilanti and within 100 feet of a school. Natural gas stocks have more than tripled within the last decade, with more coming. The majority of the new natural gas is intended for export to Asia. She attended a national gathering of county officials which represents 75% of the counties in the country. Washtenaw County was the only county voting against a resolution supporting the Keystone pipeline. She spoke about

the problems of methane and natural gas as greenhouse gases. She believes that pipelines are the biggest environmental issue for Washtenaw County, and urged the City to support the County's efforts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Climate Metrics Presentation - Josh MacDonald, Systems Planning

Josh MacDonald, Sustainability Associate for the City, gave a presentation about the City's latest greenhouse gas inventory. [The video for this segment runs from 16:50 to 41:15.]

17-1151 Waste Diversion Site Feasibility Study

Attachments: A2EC DOS presentation072717

David Stead, Principal and Vice President for Resource Recycling Services, gave a presentation about their Waste Diversion Site Feasibility Study undertaken for Washtenaw County. [The video for this segment runs from 1:15:30 to 2:02:00.]

17-1149 Presentation from Washtenaw County on their Solid Waste Plan

Attachments: A2 Environmental Commission Presentation - 072717

Jeff Krcmarik, Washtenaw County Environmental Services Supervisor, gave a presentation about Washtenaw County's Solid Waste Plan update. [The video for this segment runs from 41:30 to 1:15:30.]

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES AND CHAIR

Pollinators Subcommittee

Chair Slavik reported that the group has met twice, and will have their vision and mission statements ready for the next Environmental Commission meeting. They are also working on compiling a detailed inventory of all of the pollinator conservation work being done in the area.

Energy Commission

Chair Appleyard reported that the Community Solar Subcommittee has begun to meet; that the Commission held a good discussion of Citizens' Climate Lobby's proposal for a climate tax; and that they discussed a memo regarding how to spend the \$165,000 in the budget for climate action. They are also looking at transportation issues and reporting home energy use at time of sale (like how Chicago added an energy budget line to their MLS system).

Parks Commission

Commissioner Appel reported that the Gallup Park bike path has been resurfaced.

Planning Commission

Commissioner Gibb-Randall reported that they have had the first public hearing regarding their new solar legislation, and that it is still being worked on.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Environmental Coordinator Matt Naud reported that there was a public meeting with the state DEQ regarding the Armen Cleaners site, and that the state has extra funds to spend on this clean-up. He also reported that the City has remained an intervener in the Pall-Gelman case, and that it is likely that the state will do a stand-alone ruling bringing the level of 1,4 Dioxane down. He also reported that the City will also be undertaking an update to its Hazard Mitigation Plan with the first meeting next week. This update will include a focus on how the City can become resilient to climate change. In addition, the first meeting for the water rate study has occurred. Lastly, he reported that the City Administrator has given him and other staff direction to begin drafting a Zero Waste Events policy, and an environmentally-preferable procurement policy. He expects both of these to be brought to the Environmental Commission as soon as next month.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

No items for next agenda.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is August 24, 2017 at 7pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

No public commentary.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Skinner adjourned the meeting at 9:13pm.

All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:

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

Requests made with less than two business days' notice may not be able to be accommodated.