



**City of Ann Arbor**  
**Formal Minutes - Draft**  
**Environmental Commission**

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

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Thursday, May 27, 2021

7:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

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**This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at [a2gov.org/watchCTN](http://a2gov.org/watchCTN)**

**To speak at public comment call 206-337-9723 or 213-338-8477 or Toll Free 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099 Enter Meeting ID: 943 2486 4034**

**CALL TO ORDER**

*Meeting called to order at 7:01pm*

**LAND HERITAGE STATEMENT**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 11 - Christopher L. Graham, Robert Needham, Lisa Disch, Shannan Gibb-Randall, Kathy Griswold, John Callewaert, Stephen C Brown, Jonathan Overpeck, John Mirsky, Rita Mitchell, and Marie Gabrielle Buendia

**Absent:** 2 - Allison Skinner, and Lily Faris

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Approved as presented**

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

*Commentary regarding the ADU Ordinance concerned with adequacy of public education on the extent of changes proposed that will affect approximately 20,000 residentially zoned lots. Encouraged discussion of side and rear setbacks to reduce impact on trees,, and storm water management issues.*

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**Map Ann Arbor**

*Tony Bedogne, Senior Application Developer for City of Ann Arbor GIS, presented the online Map Ann Arbor tool that includes the Natural Features Inventory, available at [a2gov.org/a2naturalfeatures](http://a2gov.org/a2naturalfeatures). He demonstrated how to use map layers to display wetlands, woodlands, street trees, tree canopy, soils, etc. The data are updated in real time for such actions as tree removal/planting, other data is updated on an 18 mo cycle. Another GIS tool, [a2gov.org/a2stormwater](http://a2gov.org/a2stormwater) provides views of impervious surfaces, updated through 2018, and to be updated shortly. The maps are available to the public. If a user identifies a map error report it to [mapfeedback@a2gov.org](mailto:mapfeedback@a2gov.org)*

**"Characterizing the Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) to Elevate its Role in Mitigating Climate Change and Creating a Healthy and Vibrant Community in Ann Arbor****21-1082**

**Attachments:** EC Presentation.pdf

*U of M students from the School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS) presented on their project initiated to study the Ann Arbor tree canopy using remote sensing and canopy classification. The team include Thomas Estabrook, Christian Schluter, Alyssa Sklar, Lyndsay Zemanek. Methods will include use of aerial photography, satellite imagery, and LiDAR point clouds. The goal is to identify trees by species using remote sensing technology. Street tree inventory and field data will be used to train a computer modeling system to identify trees throughout the whole city. It is anticipated that overstory tree canopies will prevent aerial imagery from identifying understory trees. The student team is currently working at specified sites within and nearby the city, and will use their field work data to support the automated identification of tree species as well as turf grass areas. Data from the city's GIS system will be integrated with the student data collection. Tony Bedogne offered to support integration of city data resources with the team's work.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

[21-1040](#) Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2021

**Attachments:** MeetingMinutes22-April-2021-09-25-47.pdf

**Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council  
due back on 5/31/2021**

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### NEW BUSINESS

[21-1066](#) Resolution for Gelman Monitoring Plan in Response to NOV of MS4 Permit

**Attachments:** Resolution for Gelman Monitoring Plan in Response to  
NOV of MS4 Permit.pdf

*Commissioner Rita Mitchell introduced a resolution regarding a plan prepared by Gelman Corporation to remediate infiltration of 1,4-dioxane into the Allen Creek branch of the Municipal Shared Storm Sewer (MS4) that drains to West Park. Dan Bicknell of Global Environmental Associates and Evan Pratt the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner (WRC) provided additional detail regarding the importance of long-term testing, and agreed on the need to confirm the correct criterion in parts per million for cleanup of infiltration into the storm sewer. Mr. Dan Bicknell indicated that the Consent Judgment addresses State/EGLE/part 201 cleanup criteria, as a separate issue of concern, and that the MS4 management is covered by federal regulations and enforcement is managed separately by the WRC.*

*Council Member Griswold offered to support communication among other elected officials, to obtain review of the resolution by city legal staff to address questions raised by Commissioners, and to bring the resolution forward with revisions to the June 7 Council meeting. The goal is to let Council know that it is being discussed.*

[21-1064](#) Gelman - Allen Creek-EGLE Work-Plan-2021-April

**Attachments:** Gelman - Allen Creek-EGLE  
Work-Plan-2021-April\_725163\_7.pdf

**21-1063** ADUs Effect on Natural Features

**Attachments:** ADUsEffectonNaturalFeatures-20210527.pdf

*Vice Chair Rita Mitchell presented a resolution on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and the potential to affect trees and storm water.*

*Commissioner Shannon Gibb-Randall pointed out that storm water regulations that apply to increases in impervious surfaces greater than 200 square feet will apply to ADUs. Commissioner Graham indicated that tree roots may be negatively affected by installing underground water and sewer infrastructure. Discussion addressed developing methods to assist owners early in a planning process with assessing ADU placement to avoid harm to trees and other natural features prior to the permitting for construction. The Map Ann Arbor GIS tool could be useful to identify and avoid placing a structure in a way that would harm or remove a tree. Commissioners acknowledged the conflicts with respect to natural features and the need to balance density, retaining trees and supporting placement of solar panels as we address climate change. Additional considerations: increasing mitigation requirements for heritage trees and protection of critical root zones during construction. Commissioners felt that modifying setbacks is unlikely to provide the protections intended. For investigation: Identify communities that have tree management plans for private property. Additional discussion is needed.*

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR**

*Natural Features* □ *nothing new to report; work on the UDC to support landmark and heritage trees is ongoing.*

*Solid Waste Working Group* □ *Eileen Naples from Public Works will be leaving City Employment*

*Zero Waste Working Group* □ *Council Member Disch are working on a grant. A group is working on a one month pilot for reusable containers at four restaurants. Our Ambassadors are working on a composting pilot*

*Pollinators Working Group* □ *Work Group members continue outreach to pollinator allies, including city staff who manage the Leslie and Huron Hills golf course sections that are certified by the Audubon International program called Monarchs in the Rough, with plantings that attract pollinators. Pollinator Ambassadors will be tabling at the Farmers Market.*

*Energy Commission* □ *Commissioner John Mirsky reported RMI gave a presentation to the Commission. Then 22% of homes in Ann Arbor are using expensive methods of heating their homes. RMI also reported on the Solar Faithful Model where 8 churches have installed rooftop solar via a PPA model. Multifamily EV charging plans are in the works with hopes to partner with U of M.*

*OSI is close to bring to Council energy disclosure and benchmarking plans.*

*Planning Commission* □ *Commissioner Shannon Gibb* □ *Randall reported that the first marijuana consumption facility will be opening on Ashley.*

*Council Report* □ *Council Member Kathy Griswold reported on the Gelman hearing where the Judge Connor ordered Gelman to*

*Chairperson Report-Nothing to discuss*

**REPORT FROM STAFF**

*Staff Liaison Galen Hardy reported OSI will be celebrating A2ZERO week starting on June 2nd through June 6th.*

**ACTION ITEMS**

*Council Member Kathy Griswald and Vice Chairperson Rita Mitchell will continue to work on the response to the 1,4-dioxane infiltration into the Allen Creek storm sewer.*

*Chris Graham will continue to work on the ordinance to preserve heritage trees.*

*Natural Features review early in construction planning process or requiring equipment that is suited to site size. (no June meeting; wait until after the NF UDC revision). Amend proposed changes to include early assessment. CG to show the effect of development on NFF)*

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

*Dave Borneman will present information on Native Forest Fragments.  
Future: Review of the deer management plan in Ann Arbor.*

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

*The next scheduled meeting will be on June 24, 2021 at 7pm*

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

*Caller Tom Stulberg thanked the Commission for the comments on the culling of deer.*

*He also corrected his statement regarding the number of properties potentially affected by ADUs.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm*

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](mailto:cityclerk@a2gov.org); or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:

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