

City of Ann Arbor

100 N. Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Action Minutes

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

4:30 PM

County Building, 220 N. Main St.

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Rubin called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. in the Washtenaw County's Board of Commission Public Meeting Room, 220 N. Main Street.

ROLL CALL

Present 7 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Jennifer Santi Hall, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, and Carsten Hohnke

Absent 2 - Gilbert S. Omenn, and Catherine Riseng

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

John Petts, of DF Land Development of the Domino's Farm Company, addressed the Commission regarding a 58.17 acres parcel submitted through the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Natural Area Preservations Program that is being jointly considered by the City of Ann Arbor. The property is currently in litigation with Ann Arbor Township. Washtenaw County Parks has completed a review and appraisal of the property both the National Areas Technical Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission issued recommendations to pursue this property contingent upon the participation of additional parties (the Ann Arbor Greenbelt Advisory Commission and Park Advisory Commission). The property is adjacent to the City's Marshall Park and is within a short distance of U of M wooded area and the County's Goodrich Preserve area. All of the properties are south of M-14, between Dixboro Road and the Domino's Farm Complex. The County's appraisal was reasonable enough to be consider discussions and process however, they are coming up against a June 14, 2010 trial date.

He said that they were seeking to secure a commitment of interest from the City for this property, in order to petition the Judge to delay the trial, to permit discussions to continue and to hopefully conclude an agreement. They believe that the Greenbelt's action as well as the County's action would convince a judge that a delay in the schedule is merited and that the details of any agreement could be worked out.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Councilmember Hohnke, that the Agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting minutes of February 10 and March 10, 2010

Minutes were not available.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. American Farmland Trust Assessment of Agricultural Easement Programs

Ginny Trocchio, provided an overview of the American Farmland Trust Assessment of Agricultural Easement Programs to see if the Commission would like to obtain more information on it and incorporate some of it in the Greenbelt program. A copy of the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Commissioners Hall and Rubin expressed interested in working with staff on the program. Commissioner Ezekiel said that he could work on the the program it was worked on during the summer months.

2. Staff Update

TOUR OF FARM PROPERTIES

Ms. Trocchio asked the Commission if they were interested in planning a farm tour to allow the public to see what properties have been protected. A bike tour of the properties could be considered as well.

PROPERTY IN LODI TOWNSHIP

Ms. Trocchio said that they are close to getting a 1000 acres of property in Lodi township.

FOOD SYSTEM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Ms. Trocchio informed the Commission of the date of the Annual Food system Annual Conference which is June 24, 2010 and would be held in Jackson, Michigan.

MIDWEST LAND TRUST ALLIANCE MEETING

The Midwest Land Trust Alliance meeting is scheduled for the weekend of April 17, 2010.

MICHIGAN AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONFERENCE

The Michigan Affordable Housing Conference wants Ms. Trocchio to speak and give information about what the Greenbelt is doing. That meeting is scheduled for the end of the month.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None presented.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

Commissioner Ezekiel said that he attended a breakfast where some agencies had their displays put up. He thought it would be a good idea for GAC to put up their display as well. He asked that if someone were to go to the breakfast if they wouldn't mind taking their display to showcase it there for people to see.

Commissioner Bloomer said that an exposition of agricultural production on the Earl Horning Farm is scheduled to take place in Washtenaw County on June 26, 2010. The event usually draws 2,000 to 3,000 people and breakfast is served. Tickets are provided through the Co-Operative Extension Service. The event is worthwhile and is a way for urbanites to see how a great deal of our food is produced.

MEETING WITH PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION

Commissioner Ezekiel said that the meeting with PAC was productive meeting and that both Commissions should meet with at least once a year to update everyone on what they are doing.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION

A motion was made by Councilmember Hohnke, seconded by Commissioner Garfield, that the Commission enter into Closed session. On a voice vote, the [Enter Title] declared the motion carried.. On roll call, the vote was as follows, with the Chairperson declaring the motion carried. (The meeting recessed at 5:12 p.m.):

Yeas: 6 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Garfield, Commissioner Santi Hall, Commissioner Rubin, and Councilmember Hohnke

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Omenn, and Commissioner Riseng

MEETING RECONVENED

MOTION 1

A motion was made by Commissioner Ezekiel, seconded by Commissioner Garfield, that the property identified in Application No. 2010-01 as a priority for partnership with Washtenaw County with the following contingencies:

- * Acquiring connectivity to the adjacent protected area.
- * Make sure that we are consistent with Ann Arbor Township's Master Plan and their wishes.
- * The Greenbelt Advisory Commission will have the opportunity to review the appraisal.

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

MOTION 2

A motion was made by Commissioner Ezekiel, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the Commission recommend to City Council to partner with Webster Township on the Purchase of Development Rights on the property identified in Application No. 2010-03 and to recommend a contribution of \$120,870.00 toward the purchase of the property due to the property's proximity to other protected farms, landowner contribution and opportunity for additional partnership with Webster Township. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST MAGAZINE

Commissioner Bloomer said that there were a couple of interesting articles in the American Farmland Trust Magazine. The first is about the Peninsula Township Program and the second is an opinion piece that talks about what people need to be considering in preserving agriculture land and recommended people read the articles.

ADJOURNMENT

6:05 P.M.

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Councilmember Hohnke, that the meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Laura Rubin, Chairperson

Anissa R. Bowden
Recording Secretary