



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, March 22, 2018

7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: 11 - Christopher L. Graham, Susan Hutton, Allison Skinner, Robert Needham, Chip Smith, Karie Slavik, John Mirsky, Joshua Rego, Shannan Gibb-Randall, Anne Bannister, and Mike Appel

Absent: 2 - Jarin Marocco, and Veronica Hannah

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Hutton asked to amend the agenda to include two new resolutions - one for supporting tenant rate savings through water rates and another to support funding for organics recovery.

A motion was made by Graham, seconded by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, that the agenda be approved with changes. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[18-0528](#) Environmental Commission Minutes 1-25-18

Attachments: DRAFT Environmental Commission minutes 1-25-18.rtf

A motion was made by Graham, seconded by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, that the minutes from 1-25-18 be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Edward Vielmetti spoke about some concerns he had regarding the water and wastewater rates cost of service study agenda item.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

18-0462 Environmental Commission Resolution to Approve the City of Ann Arbor's Comprehensive Water and Wastewater Cost of Service and Rate Design Study and Recommend Adoption by City Council

Attachments: Environmenal Commission COS Presentation FINAL.pdf

Kyle Stevens from consulting firm Stantec gave a presentation about how his firm conducted the necessary research to develop the Water and Wastewater Cost of Service Study being considered by the Commission. Commissioners asked many questions and shared concerns with each other and with the presenter. The video for this segment runs between 9:50 and 1:04:34.

A motion was made by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, seconded by Graham, that the Resolution be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council and should be returned by 4/23/2018. On a voice vote with one dissenting vote from Councilmember Bannister, the Chair declared the motion carried.

18-0550 Environmental Commission recommendation to City Council to explore options to support tenant rate savings and incentives to reduce water use.

A motion was made by Graham, seconded by Needham, that the Resolution be Approved as Amended. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR

Chair Hutton reported that Josh MacDonald will be covering material from the Metrics Subcommittee later in the meeting. Commissioner Gibb-Randall reported that the Planning Commission has been spending a lot of its time reviewing medical marijuana dispensaries, including bike parking provisions. Commissioner Mirsky gave an update from the Energy Commission, highlighting the Commission's efforts to recommend that Council contact the MPSC to reject DTE's bid for a new gas fired power plant for several reasons including the belief that natural gas prices will likely increase faster than forecasted; that energy efficiency efforts can reduce demand; and that more could be done with

renewables. This resolution was passed by Commission but Council failed to act on it given larger issues between the City and DTE. Commissioners Graham and Gibb-Randall spoke about the City's 8 year long effort to reorganize its planning code, and how natural features will be integrated into the revised code language.

REPORT FROM STAFF

[18-0538](#) Solid Waste Resource Management Update

Attachments: Environmental Commission Update_Solid Waste Resource Management Plan_2018-03-21.pdf

Cresson Slotten walked the Commissioners through a recent memo he wrote giving an update on the City's efforts including a recently completed RFP to kick off the City's update to the Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan. Staff Slotten replied to a question from Chair Hutton that he would be getting back to the Commission with updated information about the solid waste fund balance shortly. The video for this segment runs from 1:23:30 to 1:32:55.

[18-0553](#) Dashboard Update

Attachments: Dashboard Update.pdf

Staff Josh MacDonald gave a report on the Metrics Subcommittee's current efforts to revise and refine the metrics that the City uses to track and measure progress towards the City's goals. The video for this segment runs between 1:32:55 and 1:56:36.

[18-0551](#) Environmental Commission Resolution to Support Funding for Organics Recovery in FY 19

A motion was made by Park Advisory Commission Rep. Appel, seconded by Vice Chair Skinner, that the Resolution be Approved as Amended. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The next scheduled meeting is on April 26, 2018.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Edward Vielmetti suggested that there be summer and winter rates for water in the same way that there are summer and winter wastewater rates. Lena Mitchell also spoke about water rates and urged the City to do a good job to explain this to residents. She also spoke about the benefits of native plants. A gentleman spoke about the discrepancy between commercial and residential water customers. He also asked that all resolutions be put up on Legistar so that the public has fair access in advance of the meeting.

Councilmembers Bannister and Smith asked that a Subcommittee be convened to examine regulations on the use of outdoor gas-powered lawn tools. Staff Naud offered to bring back information about existing regulations in Ann Arbor and other cities. Councilmember Bannister spoke about how the County's Road Commissioner has stopped removing trees along roadways. The County will be developing a tree preservation ordinance.

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Absent: 2 - Jarin Marocco, and Veronica Hannah

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hutton adjourned the meeting at 9:19pm.

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

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