

**GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION – SEPTEMBER 5, 2007**

Chairperson Laura Rubin officially called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 100 N. Fifth Ave, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

Present: Commissioners Laura Rubin, Robert Johnson, Sylvia Taylor, Dan Ezekiel, Tom Bloomer, Mike Garfield, 6;

Absent Commissioners Albert Berriz, Gilbert Omenn, Jennifer Hall, 3.

City Staff Present: Mary Joan Fales, Senior Asst. City Attorney, Damon Thompson, Community Development Manager

Others: Peg Kohring, and Ginny Leikam of The Conservation Fund

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None.

READING AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

AGENDA APPROVED WITH CHANGES

Commissioner Taylor moved, seconded by Commissioner Garfield that the agenda be approved with the following change:

Delete: FY 2006-2007 Activity Report (consider at the next regular session of the Commission)

On a voice vote, Chairperson declared the motion carried.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2007

The minutes of July 9, 2007 were not available.

PUBLIC HEARING

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS**FY 2006-2007 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Damon Thompson, Financial Manager for Community Services, presented and explained the FY 2006-2007 Financial Report to the Commission. A copy of the report is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Mary Fales, Senior Assistant City Attorney, explained the Open Meetings Act to the Commission. The Michigan Open Meetings Act was designed to control the conduct of the members of the public body when gathering to deliberate or vote on matters. She explained how meetings are held, how to notice meetings, and use of emails. She explained that emails are a verbatim recording of an entire service of communications and are subject to record retention laws with the State of Michigan. A copy of an Open Meeting handout provided to the Commission by Ms. Fales is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

STAFF REPORT

Peg Kohring updated the Commission on the Boundary change. In addition, she said that Preserve Washtenaw has been approved by the City and by most of the bodies involved in Preserve Washtenaw and it is up and running. A developer meeting has been set up for September 27, 2007 with the Home Builders. The meeting is set to discuss the opportunity to work with different entities within Washtenaw County such as Webster Township and Ann Arbor township that have may have funding available to buy parts or all of properties that would be appropriate for parks, green space or farmland. She thanked Commissioner Berriz for his efforts with this.

REGISTRY PROGRAM

Jennifer Hall presented a resolution regarding a Registry Program.

Commissioner Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Garfield to consider the proposed resolution for discussion by the Commission.

RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT A REGISTRY PROGRAM
FOR THE ANN ARBOR GREENBELT

Whereas, Chapter 42 of The Ann Arbor City Code establishes the Greenbelt District with the intent of preserving farmland and open space;

Whereas, The City of Ann Arbor has expressed support for other farmland and open space preservation efforts in Washtenaw County through Preserve Washtenaw;

Whereas, Limited funds and/or lack of willing sellers will prevent all the farmland and open space in the Greenbelt District from becoming permanently preserved;

Whereas, Building relationships with landowners in the Greenbelt District is critical to the success of the program;

Whereas, Registry programs have been used in other communities to foster relationships with landowners;

Whereas, A registry program within the Greenbelt District would be a non-legally binding agreement between the City and landowners who agree to keep their property in open space or agriculture and thereby contribute to the goals of the Greenbelt program;

Whereas, A registry program would honor some of those landowners within the Greenbelt District who own large tracts of land and farmland and have been good stewards of the land or kept the land in agriculture production;

RESOLVED, That the Greenbelt Advisory Commission direct staff to purchase a registry program with a limited number of landowners within the Greenbelt District over the next 9 months.

Submitted by: The Conservation Fund
Date: September 5, 2007

- Commissioner Hall asked that properties be added to the greenbelt map for more clarity of the greenbelt in the future.

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

RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Garfield moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson that the regular session of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission be recessed for a closed session to discuss pending land acquisition applications.

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

Yeas, Commissioners Laura Rubin, Robert Johnson, Sylvia Taylor, Dan Ezekiel, Tom Bloomer, Mike Garfield, 6;

Nays, 0.

The Chairperson declared the motion carried and the meeting recessed at 4:58 p.m.

Commissioner Ezekiel moved, seconded by Commissioner Garfield that the regular session of Greenbelt Advisory Commission be reconvened.

On a voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 5:34 p.m.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None presented at this time.

REPORT FROM COMMISSION COMMITTEES

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Garfield moved, that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm. The next meeting is set tentatively for October 3, 2007 at 4:30pm in City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Laura Rubin, Chairperson

Anissa R. King

Anissa R. King
Recording Secretary