



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes

Energy Commission

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
[http://a2gov.legistar.com/
Calendar.aspx](http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

6:00 PM

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St,
Basement, conference room

CALL TO ORDER

Appleyard called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: 13 - Charles Hookham, Kim Wolske, Brigit Macomber, Mike Shriberg, Mark Clevey, Shoshannah Lenski, Stephen Raiman, Wayne Appleyard, Kenneth J. Wadland, Noah Levin, Chip Smith, Chip Smith, and John Mirsky

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Raiman offered clarification on remarks about Line 5 pipeline integrity from previous meeting: 20% thickness variation in the pipe is within the accepted manufacture tolerance. Changes noted and minutes approved on a voice vote.

16-1046 Minutes of the May 10, 2016 Ann Arbor Energy Commission Meeting

Attachments: Energy Commission Minutes 5-10-16 DRAFT.pdf

Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council due back on 10/17/2016

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input.

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners showed interest in seeing the Climate Partnership website, which will be coming in the following months. It was suggested that Erica Bertram from the Climate Partnership come to the Commission to walk them through the new site once ready.

The City is in the process of creating an RFP for the solar landfill. There will be a chance for commissioner input in the final version. The City will be working with its federal partners, SolSmart. Details on ownership, and size are still to be determined.

The Farmers Market is adding an enclosed addition to their site and Energy Office staff is helping determine whether the market's roofed section can have solar – plans to proceed and/or make the roof solar ready. Work on the structure could begin as soon as the end of this year.

DTE is looking to bolster the use of their insight app. The app collects and helps analyze data about electrical use and can be used for instantaneous energy readings. You can compete with others using the app. The City is working with DTE to promote the app. The app could be used for benchmarking (currently focused on residential energy use).

The Michigan Streetlight Coalition (challenging DTE's streetlight tariff proposal) has submitted settlement comments to the MPSC. A small increase in rates across all forms of lighting is anticipated. However, this is an improvement over their original plan to reduce High Pressure Sodium rates and increase LED rates. There are ongoing talks about whether the Streetlight Coalition that formed in response to the rate case might turn into an ongoing association to assist communities with lighting and future rate-making.

DTE is also working out the details for a voluntary tariff to supply renewable energy. The generation will come from a proposed windfarm in the thumb region and a large array in Lapeer, MI; for an additional 3.2 per kWh extra charge.

The Ann Arbor Hands on Museum has created wind exhibit demonstration devices and begun fabrication of permanent exhibits. Currently constructing exhibits of: a wind table, flow tank, wind turbine, storage, and a model to show electric distribution. They have gathered input at the GLREA energy fair, but are open to more input from commissioner as they get closer to releasing it in

October.

The Michigan Energy Symposium will occur between September 26th through 28th and will be hosted by the Michigan Energy Institute at the Rackham building. The topic for this year is combating climate change through nuclear power. There will be several panel discussions with experts in the field. The event will be open to the public.

There will be an update by the Regional Climate Assessment, with a focus on adaptation late summer, details to follow.

The Detroit Zoo is planning on putting in a bio-digester.

Commissioner Clevey worked on the project some time ago and mentioned that the site was optimal for feedstock and other considerations.

RTA Update/Resolution

The purpose of the resolution is for Ann Arbor to join a coalition that supports regional transit and the Plan proposed by the (RTA) authority.

The resolution states that joining the coalition could decrease greenhouse gases by a significant proportion. There was interest among some commissioners to quantify the impact on greenhouse gases the resolution would have. Other commissioners argued it would be hard to quantify the impact because it was too early in the process to tell. Instead, there was broader decision to strike a “significant proportion” of the emissions from the resolution. Commissioners discussed refining the resolution before it reaches council. The resolution would go through other iterations by the Environmental Commission and others before going to Council. There was some discussion about the regional transportation millage and the timing associated with RTA projects, but ultimately it was agreed upon that these considerations were beyond the scope of the resolution.

There were two friendly amendments to the resolution. 1) Amendment to eliminate a “significant portion of” when talking about cutting greenhouse gas emissions. 2) Amendment to change who the partner would be, from city council to The City of Ann Arbor.

Commissioner Wadland moved to pass the amendments, Lenski seconded the amendments.

Commissioner Wadland moved to pass the resolution, Lenski

seconded it, and the resolution was passed unanimously.

- 16-1047** Resolution recommending that the City of Ann Arbor sign on to become a coalition member of A Coalition for Transit (ACT)

Energy Commission & CIP Process

Commissioner Clevey gave a report summarizing the CIP process after talking to Deb Gosselin; the CIP process is based on a 100-point scale that helps to determine which projects should go forward. The sustainability framework goals make up 10 points out of the 100. A subsection of the sustainability framework, the climate energy section of the framework, includes: sustainable energy, energy conservation, and high-performance for existing buildings. Clevey's recommendations included looking for ways to directly impact the CIP process, by having the projects go through the energy commission, and by strengthening Nate's position in the CIP process. Moreover, he argued that they could have the projects come to the commission for suggestions and have Nate follow up. He also suggested that the commission should track the projects to see which changes are made.

A question arose as to the feasibility of having the Commission look at all of CIP projects. Instead, there could be a checklist with the specific changes that the energy commission is looking for. Another suggestion was that an energy subcommittee work with the Planning Commission on upcoming projects.

There was a suggestion that the Energy Commission work to change the process -- more specifically, that the Commission look at how the 10 points are allocated. But parties with competing interests might try to allocate more points towards their areas. Instead, there was a suggestion that the Commission focus its efforts on adding an energy section separate from the sustainability scoring section.

There was an overall agreement that the next step would be for Deb Gosselin to present on the process to the Commission when next available.

Community-facing Climate & Energy Update

There was a survey given out to Energy and Environmental Commissions to help weigh and prioritize how best to spend funds for community facing sustainability projects/programs based on existing and viable efforts with the funding available. One takeaway

included moving largest emphasis from PACE and toward the solar program.

There were a few suggestions by the Commissioners. One of these suggestions included co-marketing multiple initiatives. Others argued that co-marketing could create information overload for the public.

Ultimately, staff will be determining the allocation of funds taking in Commission input as much as possible.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Climate Action Plan

WAY2GO campaign being finalized and incorporated into Climate Partnership website.

Renewable Energies

Will be meeting after Commission on next steps and issues.

Sustainable Funding

No update; Attorney Office assisting with sustainability funding option question.

Sustainability Metrics

Commissioner Mirsky will be working with the Environmental Commission and possibly the Climate Partnership to create metrics that accurately reflect where we stand on the Sustainability Framework and CAP. Some STAR Community Index information might be able to be incorporated in the dashboard.

More funding is needed so Commissioner Mirsky will be working with the subcommittees and staff on recommendations.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was a question from the public if there was any information on electrical storage. Staff and Commissioner Hookham offered to provide input and advice afterwards.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

**Deb Gosselin to present and do Q/A regarding the CIP process
(anticipated September)**
**Erica at Ecology Center to give a preview of the Climate Action
website (Anticipated October)**
Put together a funding ask before the council retreat in December
Mirsky offered to present on metrics

ADJOURNMENT

Appleyard adjourned the meeting at 8 PM.

**Visit www.a2energy.org for community energy information in Ann Arbor,
or
www.a2gov.org/energy to learn more about the City's Energy Programs**

**Regular meetings shown Live and replayed on CTN Channel 16 and at
www.a2gov.org/ctn**