

City of Ann Arbor

100 N. Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>



Action Minutes

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

4:30 PM

County Building, 220 N. Main St.

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Laura Rubin called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. in the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners meeting room, 220 N. Main Street.

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, and Carsten Hohnke

Absent 4 - Michael Garfield, Jennifer Santi Hall, Gilbert S. Omenn, and Catherine Reising

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Bloomer, that the Agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. November 4, 2009 Minutes

November 4, 2009 Minutes were not available.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

(Commissioner Reising arrived at 4:37 p.m.; Commissioner Hall arrived at 4:48 p.m.)

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

Absent 2 - Michael Garfield and Gilbert S. Omenn

1. 09-1225 Ann Arbor Open Space and Parkland Preservation Program Activity Report for Fiscal year 2008-2009

Ginny Trocchio of the Conservation Fund, presented and explained the 2008-2009

Activity Report for Fiscal year. The report is a presentation of acquisitions between July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Four transactions were closed on as well. One was in partnership with Washtenaw County Parks in Scio Township. The report also outlines Park Land Acquisitions and how goals were accomplished in the past year and also sets goals for 2009 through 2010.

The report will be posted to the web and given to City Council as an information item. A copy of the report is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Hohnke asked that the maps of the parcels be included with the report.

Commissioner Ezekiel wanted to clarify to the public that the Greenbelt millage can only be spent on preserving property and the Commission does not have a plan to do anything else with the millage besides recommending to City Council that it preserve property. The Commission was only looking at creative ways to improve the access that small farmers may have to the Greenbelt Program because federal grants are geared towards large farms.

Commissioner Hohnke said that the Commission has met or exceeded all of the goals of 2008-09. He thanked the Conservation staff for the hard work that they have done over the past year and continuing into this fiscal year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kelly Martin, Financial Manger for Community Services, explained the Financial Statement of the Open Space and Parkland Preservation Millage to the Commission. The Commission then asked questions of Ms. Martin. A copy of the report is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

2. 09-1226 Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting Calendar for 2010

The Commission reviewed and accepted the 2010 meeting calendar.

3. Staff Update

OTTAWA GREENBELT CONFERENCE

Ms. Trocchio informed the Commission that she spoke at the Ottawa Greenbelt Conference. They were revisiting their master plan and invited speakers from other greenbelts to talk to them about what each greenbelt was doing. This was a good opportunity to highlight what Ann Arbor is doing. Ottawa was impressed with the amount of support the greenbelt got from Ann Arbor residents as well as residents in Washtenaw County. Ottawa's Greenbelt is different in that it has publicly owned land with a mix of uses from farm and natural areas to some industrial sites.

Ms. Trocchio presented a slide presentation of how the Ann Arbor Greenbelt has come along. The presentation gave a breakdown of how many acres have been protected since 2005 as well as what would be protected by spring of 2010. She added that 2009 has been an active and successful year for the greenbelt. A copy of the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Rubin said that she and Commissioner Hall have talked about having a celebration sometime in the spring with the public to talk about some of the goals that the Commission has reached.

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP

Ms. Kohring said that she received an email from Northfield Township. The Township Supervisor has responded to the question the Commission had about their township having matching funds available. They were advised that there are no funds available and that the township was not interested in having the Ann Arbor Greenbelt work with them within their township to acquire farmland development rights. A copy of the email is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Rubin said this was presented to her and Commissioner Hall by Peg and Ginny. They thought that the Commission should see the email and wanted to pose the idea of having a group of this Commission go meet with the township.

Commissioner Hall said that staff has received applications from property owners in Northfield Township and it is unfortunate that the township supervisor is not supportive of our program when applications from residents in Northfield Township are being received for our program to help them support their farming activity. It's not so much that they don't have funds available, it's the position they are taking with our program, when it's their residents that are applying to the program. Ms. Hall asked that the number of applications received be made available to the group of commissioners that would attend the meeting with the township.

Commissioner Rubin also asked that a member of staff attend the meeting with the township in terms of building a relationship with them.

Commissioner Allen said that he did not think this was the attitude of the township supervisor, it may be the attitude of someone on the board, and he recommended that person attend the meeting as well.

Commissioners Ezekiel and Reising and a member of staff will attend the meeting. Staff was asked to schedule a meeting some time in January 2010.

GREENBELT SIGNS

Commissioner Bloomer showed the Commission a sign that would be posted on his property soon.

(Commissioner Omenn arrived at 5:06 p.m.)

Present 8 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Jennifer Santi Hall, Gilbert S. Omenn, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, Carsten Hohnke, and Catherine Reising

Absent 1 - Michael Garfield

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None presented.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

NEW APPLICATIONS

Ms. Trocchio said that they have received no new applications. A couple of their partners have and they will bring those to the Commission in January. Communications to landowners in the greenbelt are being prepared for mailing next

month in order to get ready for the next round of FRPPs. The communication will include the letter that the commission recently approved.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Councilmember Hohnke, that the meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Laura Rubin, Chairperson

**Anissa R. Bowden
Recording Secretary**