



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, October 26, 2017

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 7:03pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: 11 - Christopher L. Graham, Susan Hutton, Allison Skinner, Jarin Marocco, Chip Smith, Karie Slavik, Jason Frenzel, Veronica Hannah, Mike Appel, Shannan Gibb-Randall, and Mark Clevey

Absent: 3 - Robert Needham, John Mirsky, and Joshua Rego

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Graham, seconded by Skinner, that the agenda be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved

17-1770 Environmental Commission Minutes September 2017

Attachments: FormalMinutes-SEP-2017.pdf

A motion was made by Skinner, seconded by Gibb-Randall, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council and should be returned by 12/11/2017. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

[17-1775](#) Prof. Sally Oey Presentation on Light Pollution

Attachments: Oey_A2EnvironComm.pdf

Professor Sally Oey is a professor of astronomy at UM. She gave a presentation about the environmental and social impacts of light pollution. The video for this presentation runs between 2:06 and 46:40.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES AND CHAIR

Chair Hutton brought a report back from the Metrics Subcommittee. She recommended that the metric for responsible resource use (percent of waste diverted from the landfill) be adopted. The current metric on the Sustainability Dashboard is pulling it's data from the National Community Survey which is a public opinion poll. This is especially timely given that the Solid Waste Plan expires in December. She mentioned that many of the diversion rate stats have not improved to goal levels in the current Solid Waste Plan. Commissioner Graham affirmed that this is a good metric to choose especially given the long-term implications of climate change.

Chair Hutton gave an update about the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Only one conveyor belt is working which means that the MRF has the inability to bail lucrative cardboard means a loss of between \$600-\$1,000 a day.

Commissioner Appel gave an update from the Parks Commission that the City bought two Zambonis and saved another one. The City is also relining all of the pools. Systems Planning will be moving forward with project to save Sisters Lake from becoming shallower. Parks Commission voted "no finding" on the Fuller Road train station.

Commissioner Gibb-Randall gave an update from the Planning Commission that a recent project was rejected due to the existence of 300 year old Charter Oaks on Packard Road. There has also been a lot of activity in the north side of the City.

Commissioner Clevey gave an update from the Energy Commission.

There has been activity in reviewing the City's solar program through the Climate Action Plan, and looking to relaunch the program next year.

Councilmember Frenzel talked about the Council's recent struggles with the ground-mounted solar issues. He reminded the Commission that there is an election next week.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Matt Naud reported that staff gathered in New Haven to talk about UM and the City partnering on climate data. He also just came back from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network annual meeting where Paul Hawken was a keynote speaker. The state's change in 1,4 dioxane standard means that the City has to do more groundwater testing. The City put in a bid for the Bloomberg Philanthropy's Mayor's Challenge regarding affordable housing. The City also just updated it's Hazard Mitigation Plan with a significant focus on climate. Nate Geisler is updating the Green Fleets policy. Still some work going on regarding a proposed Zero Waste Events policy. Commissioner Clevey asked staff to give a presentation about Paul Hawken's work to the Energy Commission.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Commissioner Graham asked if the Commission is working on a lighting ordinance. Staff will share past work with the Commission including a model lighting ordinance. Staff will also follow up with Professor Oey. Commissioner Gibb-Randall wondered whether many of the new buildings with uplighting were passed that way or were done after being approved. Professor Oey stated that getting any new projects to comply with new lighting regulations would go a long way to improving the light pollution problem. Commissioner Gibb-Randall talked about how Planning can and cannot impact lighting in new developments.

Councilmember Frenzel thanked the Commission, and Councilmember Smith thanked Councilmember Frenzel for all of his work on environmental issues.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is December 7th, 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

There was no public commentary.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hutton adjourned the meeting at 8:17pm.

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

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