

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Action Minutes

Thursday, May 2, 2013

4:30 PM

City Hall, 301 E. Huron St., 2nd Floor, Council Chambers

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ezekiel called the meeting of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission to order at 4:37 p.m. in the Guy C. Larcom, Jr. Building, 2nd Floor Council Chambers, 301 E. Huron St.

ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Dan Ezekiel, Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, Shannon Brines, Archer H. Christian, and Christopher Taylor
Absent 2 - Tom Bloomer, and Catherine Riseng

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Rubin, that the agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Commissioners Riseng and Bloomer arrive at this time. Commissioner Rubin noted that her term as well as Ezekiel and Bloomer were coming to an end in June. Jennifer Fike, Finance Director of Huron River Watershed Council, was present and expressed her interest in wanting to serve on the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. She has a strong finance and administrative background. She also has a very strong interest in land preservation.

Present 8 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, Catherine Riseng, Shannon Brines, Archer H. Christian, and Christopher Taylor

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

(4 SPEAKERS MAXIMUM - 5 MINUTE SPEAKING TIME - SIGN UP MUST TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO THE MEETING BY NOTIFYING THE CHAIR OR CITY STAFF. THIS SECTION OF PUBLIC COMMENTARY IS LIMITED TO ITEMS RELATED TO THE AGENDA.)

None.

A APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved

A-1 13-0523 Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2013

A motion was made by Commissioner Rubin, seconded by Commissioner Christian, that the Minutes of April 4, 2013 be approved by the Commission with changes and forwarded to the City Council for filing. On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

B OLD BUSINESS

None.

C NEW BUSINESS

Stephanie Buttrey was nominated to serve on the Commission replacing the resignation of Commissioner Rother. The first reading on the nomination was scheduled to be considered by City Council and the action was postponed. Taylor said he would try to get it approved as a one-step process for the upcoming Council Meeting.

Stephanie Buttrey, a 50 year resident of Ann Arbor, introduced herself to the Commission. She gave background regarding her career as an Engineer with the Chrysler Corporation and her interest in land conservation. Chairman Ezekiel noted that Stephanie Buttrey was instrumental in the City of Ann Arbor's acquiring Redwood Park. Chairman Ezekiel expressed his delight with Stephanie Buttrey's anticipated participation with the Commission. He noted that she would bring common sense and business knowledge to the Commission.

C-1 Staff Updates

Ginny Trocchio stated to date she has not heard from FRPP regarding grants that were submitted in March. She said she would update the Commission further when more information is available.

Ms. Trocchio updated the Commission on a recent meeting between the Conservation Fund Government Relations staff and Director of the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program. Jeremy Stone talked about the land preservation in Ann Arbor. He was impressed at what the Commission has been able to accomplish. His response was that preserving land around an urban area is exactly the type of programs that the FRPP is looking to support.

D NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None presented.

E REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

Ms. Trocchio met with Commissioner Brines to discuss the registry program. It is their hope to have an outline and format for the Commission to review at a later date.

F COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Rubin asked if the Strategic Plan that was approved at the last meeting had been presented to City Council for approval. Ms. Trocchio responded, stating that the Strategic Plan will be submitted to City Council as an informational item. City Council is not required to approve the Plan because it is not a part of the City of Ann Arbor's Master Strategic Plan. Currently Communications staff is working to format the document to include graphics. Upon completion it will be forwarded on to City Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY (5 MINIMUTE MAXIMUM SPEAKING TIME - NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SPEAKING IN THIS SECTION.)

Barry Lonik of 11300 Island Lake Rd. Dexter, MI encouraged Commissioners, as well as others, to go out and visit Scio Church Woods Preserve. He stated that the

preserve is approximately a 100 acres with rolling hills, streams, and flowers carpeting the grounds.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUS LAND ACQUISITION

Commissioner Ezekiel made note that Barry Lonik, a representative of Ann Arbor Township, would be accompanying the Commissioners into closed session briefly to share some communications. However, he would not be present during any of the closed session deliberations.

A motion was made by Councilmember Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Rubin, that the Commission enter into Closed session to discuss land acquisition. On a roll call, the vote was as follows with the Chairman declaring the motion carried (the meeting recessed at 4:52 p.m.):

Yeas: 8 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Rubin, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Riseng, Brines, Commissioner Christian, and Councilmember Taylor

Nays: 0

MEETING RECONVENED

The Commission meeting reconvened at 5:40 p.m.

MOTION 1 Application 2013-01

A motion was made by Commissioner Riseng, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, that the following motion be Approved.

A motion to recommend to City Council to partner with Ann Arbor Township for the purchase of development rights on property identified in application 2013-01 and contribute 33% of the purchase price.

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

MOTION 2 Application 2012-12

A motion was made by Commissioner Riseng, seconded by Commissioner Christian, that the following motion be Approved.

A motion to recommend to City Council to proceed with purchase of development rights on property identified in application #2012-12 if at least 20% of matching funds are secured.

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

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

Commissioner Ezekiel reported the passing of Charles Brown, an influential local leader in the farm community, who died since the last Commission meeting. The Greenbelt Advisory Commission did a land preservation on the Brown's property.

Commissioner Ezekiel also noted that there are positions available on the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. He stated that next month will be the last meeting for

Commissioners Bloomer, Ezekiel and Rubin. He encouraged interested parties to apply.

ADJOURNMENT

5:44 p.m.