



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, December 5, 2019

7:00 PM

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St, Second
floor, City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: 11 - Susan Hutton, Robert Needham, Karie Slavik, Mike Appel, Shannan Gibb-Randall, John Callewaert, Stephen C Brown, Jonathan Overpeck, John Mirsky, Anne Bannister, and Chip Smith

Absent: 2 - Christopher L. Graham, and Allison Skinner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Needham, seconded by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, that the agenda be Approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[19-2283](#) Minutes from the 10-24-19 meeting of the Env Commission

Attachments: Env Commission minutes 10-24-19 rev 2.pdf

A motion was made by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, seconded by Callewaert, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

There was no public commentary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commission participation in RFP processes

19-2341 Process for City Commission involvement in the selection of a firm responding to an RFP

Attachments: CityCommissions_RFPevaluation_draft_css.pdf

Staff Slotten reported that the document in question was an internal document not meant for public viewing.

ACTION ITEM: City Administrator Lazarus said that he would finish the document and bring it back to the Commission.

Tabled

Integrated Pest Management

Staff Dave Borneman from Parks gave a presentation about how the Parks Department controls pests uses an Integrated Pest Management policy to minimize the use of chemical controls in managing Park lands. Councilmember Smith asked if staff could share this information to the public on a website. Councilmember Bannister talked about a resolution being brought to Commission at the January meeting. Chair Brown asked if the Parks Dept uses insecticide. Commissioner Gibb-Randall asked what is on the horizon regarding to these issues. Staff Borneman replied that they pay attention to the issues in the news and try to keep up to date on the issues. Public Works uses a very minimal amount of herbicides as needed. [The video for this item runs between 14:45 and 44:49.]

19-2334 Integrated Pest Management for the City of Ann Arbor

Attachments: Integrated Pest Management 2019 - For Legistar.pdf

19-1624 Memo from City Attorneys office re pesticides and state law

Attachments: Memo from City Attorneys office re pesticides and state law.pdf

Solid Waste Resource Management Plan

Staff Cresson Slotten gave an update on the Solid Waste Resource Management Plan (SWRMP) process and the resulting plan. Chair Brown thanked staff for their work on this process and asked if the City

would be submitting an RFP for in-house services. City Administrator replied that the cost of service analysis is public. Councilmember Smith asked about the possibility of a solid waste district downtown. Staff Slotten replied the district idea is in the SWRMP. Lazarus replied that staff has been in conversation with the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Agency. Commissioner Overpeck asked staff how the adoption of a carbon neutrality goal can be reached with zero carbon emissions from waste. Lazarus spoke about difficulties the City will encounter in trying to bring carbon emissions in this sector to zero. Commissioner Overpeck asked what the City's diversion rate is and how it compares to other communities. Lazarus replied that the overall diversion rate is approximately 29% but that people need to pay attention to how cities calculate these figures. Commissioner Mirsky added to the discussion by stating that the City is very good in the residential market but lags for the commercial sector. Commissioner Appel asked about the regionalization effort and Lazarus replied that staff will be pushing the issue forward. Commissioner Mirsky suggested that organics collection could be picked up a monthly basis during the winter months saving costs and GHG emissions. He also stated that textile recycling and bulky item collection proposals should be developed so that they result in a win-win outcomes with nonprofits who already provide these services. Councilmember Bannister talked about the weighted representation, "responsible contractor", and standards and enforcement issues. Councilmember Smith reported that the drop off station replacement cost would fall only on the City if the City does not join WRRMA. [The video of this item runs between 44:50 and 1:18:25.]

19-2318 Items for the Solid Waste Resource Management Plan agenda item for the Dec 5, 2019 Env Commission meeting

Attachments: 191017~1.PDF, 2019-12-05_SWRMP EC PowerPoint.pdf, SWRMP-~1 (1).PDF, SWRMP-November 2019_final draft.pdf, EC Resolution_SWRMP_2019-12-05 rev 2.pdf

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, that the Report or Communication be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Meeting Dates

[19-2257](#) 2020 Meeting Dates for the Environmental Commission

Attachments: 2020 Meeting Dates for the Env Commission.pdf

A motion was made by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, seconded by Smith, that the 2020 meeting dates be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Clerk. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

Discussion on 2020 Work Plans and Work Groups

Commissioners discussed what the Work Groups were able to accomplish in 2019, and began discussing the Work Groups' plans for 2020.

ACTION ITEM: It was decided that each of the Work Groups would convene at least once before the January Commission meeting, at which time they will present a workplan for their Work Group (to be edited or adopted by the Commission).

[19-2363](#) 2019 Priorities and Subcommittees of the Environmental Commission

Attachments: 2019 Priorities and Subcommittees of the Environmental Commission.pdf

Policy Agenda Items 2020

[19-2335](#) Policy Agenda Items for 2020

Attachments: Environmental Commission Policy Agenda Items 2020.pdf

ACTION ITEM: The Chair will be working with Councilmember Smith to collect other policy agenda ideas from Commissioners and submit them for consideration.

A motion was made by Overpeck, seconded by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, that the resolution to accept the 6 staff recommendations be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR

Water Working Group: They are working with staff to revise a floodplain

ordinance.

Energy Commission: They updated their bylaws, submitted items for the policy agenda process for 2020, and are working on a solar access white paper.

Planning Commission: They are rezoning parcels that were given to the City, working on the Plymouth Rd subdivision project, revising the "public benefit" standards to require solar installations instead of roofs just needing to be "solar-ready", and are rejecting proposals for drive-thrus due to environmental concerns.

Council: Councilmember Bannister gave an update that City staff and Councilmembers will be attending WRRMA's December board meeting. She also mentioned that she is working on a resolution on integrated pest management that will be discussed at the January Commission meeting.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Staff Drennen gave an update on the A2Zero effort, including a report that hundreds of people attended the first public meeting, that the effort now has over 50 community partner organizations signed up, that a survey is now open for public participation at A2Zero.org, and that the next public meeting will be February 22 at Pioneer High School.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- * Work Group plans for 2020*
- * Integrated Pest Management resolution*
- * FY 2020-21 Budget Discussion*

Updates on: securing staff help for development of a tree protection resolution, the status of WRRMA membership, and Food Gatherers' request for City support

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

January 23, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Rita Mitchell spoke about the UM Regents meeting that evening.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:20pm.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hutton, seconded by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, that the meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

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

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