



City of Ann Arbor

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

Energy Commission

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

6:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lenski called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Charles Hookham, Brigit Macomber, Shoshannah Lenski, John Mirsky, Carlene Colvin-Garcia, Jack Eaton, and Jay Zocher

Absent: 6 - Mike Shriberg, Mark Clevey, Noah Levin, Jeff Hayner, Teresa Hatcher, and Ember McCoy

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mirsky, seconded by Zocher, that the Agenda be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Hookham, seconded by Mirsky, that the Minutes be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Resident Ken Garber discussed post-industrial increases to the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the 2 degree Centigrade heating thresholds determined by the IPCC, and the implications of equity amongst developing and developed countries relating to a global carbon budget. Resident Garber discussed that an equitable goal of limiting global heating to 2 degree Centigrades would require developed countries to reach net zero by 2035, requiring radical action, not incremental change.

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Chair Lenski discussed the role of the Chair and Vice Chair, and continuing to democratically decide the path of the commission.

Chair Lenski shared suggested improvements to the operations of the commission following a discussion with Vice Chair Mirsky, including:

1. Sharing any proposed agenda items or resolutions at least one week in advance to the Office of Sustainability and Innovation
2. Creating an Action Item Tracker to understand who is responsible for actions and how they progress
3. Encouraging the content discussed and created by the commission to be in support of and leveraged to the City's Sustainability staff, and prioritizing meaningful actions

Vice Chair Mirsky discussed the commission being performance- and outcome-oriented, without steering the agenda.

Staff MacDonald informed the commission of updates on Fire Station 6. Commissioner Hookham informed the commission that the solar installation at Fire Station 6 was motivated by an energy audit and will replace the existing solar thermal installation, which is no longer viable.

Staff MacDonald informed the commission that interconnection agreements were submitted for 13 City buildings, including Fire Station 6.

Commissioner Hookham reviewed the Fire Station 6 Solar Installation Charter with the commission. Commissioner Hookham informed the commission that the charter provides electric and code requirements, division of responsibility, and scheduling and financing.

Staff MacDonald informed the commission that the crowd funding closed after raising around \$3,000 for the project.

Staff MacDonald informed the commission that a balasted rail station has been installed at Fire Station 6 to ensure safety during installation. Staff MacDonald informed the commission that a power purchasing agreement is currently being pursued and is determining the project schedule, along with coordinating with University of Michigan student presence.

Commissioner Hookham informed the commission that the installation requires a City permit and procurement.

Vice Chair Mirsky proposed that Commissioner Hookham coordinate with Wayne Appleyard and Dave Konkle, who worked at the City at the time of installation, to determine whether the solar thermal product is worth investigating, and moving forward appropriately. Commissioner Zoher suggested donating or repurposing the product if it is not viable at its current location.

Chair Lenski, Staff MacDonald, and Commissioner Hookham discussed a secondary deadline from DTE regarding the installation of solar panels,

including timing installations with an RFP for energy efficiency audits and an RFP for solar installations that the City has or intends to release.

Commissioner Macomber and Staff MacDonald discussed the level of project funding that has been secured.

Commissioner Hookham asked that commissioners review the charter and provide support when interested. Commissioner Hookham informed the commission that he will provide updates on upcoming actions.

Chair Lenski proposed a monthly update on the Fire Station 6 project. Vice Chair Mirksy proposed measuring progress against the proposed schedule in the charter.

Ann Arbor Fire Station No. 6 (AAFS6) - Hookham

Recognition of Ann Arbor Public Schools

A motion was made by Commissioner Zocher, seconded by Vice Chair Mirsky, that the resolution for the Recognition of Ann Arbor Public Schools be discussed.

Vice Chair Mirsky discussed the purpose of the resolution to congratulate and encourage the Ann Arbor Public Schools to move aggressively on environmental issues. Commissioner Colvin-Garcia discussed the original motive of the resolution to acknowledge the Ann Arbor Public Schools for having adopted an Environment and Sustainability Policy and Regulation. Chair Lenski informed the commission that the commission has previously provided recognition to groups that have helped advance sustainability goals.

Commissioner Colvin-Garcia shared the short-term priorities of the Ann Arbor Public School District regarding Environment and Sustainability.

Vice Chair Mirsky informed the commission that the Ann Arbor Public School's board of education voted unanimously to ask voters in November to pass a bond for up to \$1 billion, and requesting incorporating environmental sustainability and climate action. Commissioner Colvin-Garcia suggested requesting a speaker to present on the anticipated changes that directly relate to environmental sustainability.

On a voice vote, Chair Lenski declared the resolution passed.

Resolution to acknowledge the Ann Arbor Public Schools

Youth Commission Resolution

Chair Lenski introduced the Youth Commission Resolution, which Staff Stults

mentioned at a previous meeting. Chair Lenksi informed the commission that the resolution is a copy of the resolution passed by the Environmental Commission. Chair Lenksi informed the commission that the resolution would add two seats to each commission for youth members.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Mirsky, seconded by Commissioner Zocher, to consider the resolution.

Vice Chair Mirsky discussed the motivation to include youth commissioners on the topics of environment and energy, as those topics disproportionately impact younger generations.

Councilmember Eaton informed the commission that he is not aware of any plan to universally include youth on commissions, but is aware of preliminary discussions to form a Youth Commission.

Commissioner Hookham and Vice Chair Mirsky discussed the age range for the youth commissioner seats along with the terminology for youth commissioners.

Commissioner Hookham, Chair Lenksi, and Vice Chair Mirsky discussed the term for the youth commissioners.

Vice Chair Mirsky discussed increasing the threshold of residence and favoring residents over non-residents. Chair Lenksi and Councilmember Eaton verified that the resolution addresses place of residence requirements.

Councilmember Eaton informed the commission that a person unable to vote in Ann Arbor, whether due to their age or place of residence, would require an additional vote from City Council.

Councilmember Eaton discussed that the language of the resolution should present it as a council resolution. Councilmember Eaton informed the commission that City Council would need to pass a resolution to modify the voting seats of the Energy Commission, as it was formed by a resolution, rather than amending City Council. Commissioner Colvin-Garcia discussed that there are currently 11 voting members on City Council, which should be reflected in the resolution language. Councilmember Eaton discussed that the number of voting members may change as the bylaws are being reviewed by City Attorneys. Councilmember Eaton discussed that additional voting members would require a larger quorum.

Commissioner Hookham and Commissioner Colvin-Garcia discussed potential interest among local youth in the Youth Commission seats.

Vice Chair Mirsky discussed that the timing of the Energy Commission meetings may be reviewed if Youth Commissioners are approved.

On a voice vote, the Chair declared the resolution passed.

Youth Commissioners Resolution

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Solar Access Ordinance

Commissioner Hookham informed the commission that the subcommittee was unable to meet this month. Commissioner Hookham discussed stimulating City Planning groups to begin processing together. Staff MacDonald discussed meeting at another time with City Planning.

Lighting Ordinance

Vice Chair Mirsky informed the commission that the subcommittee is still addressing amoritization. Vice Chair Mirsky informed the commission that the draft ordinance is being reviewed by the City Attorney's office and the Planning Commission.

Vice Chair Mirsky informed the commission that the subcommittee will have its first meeting addressing changes to the Orange Book this month, as a follow on to the ordinance.

Energy Audit Disclosure Ordinance

Vice Chair Mirsky informed the commission that the subcommittee has a first draft of the resolution, which will be reviewed by the working group.

Staff MacDonald informed the commission that the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors has reached out to be involved.

EV Readuness Ordinance

Commissioner Colvin-Garcia informed the commission that there was an event co-hosted by the City of Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan's Energy Institute, SPARK, and the Ecology Center based on the recently announced incentive program called Charing Forward by DTE. The event invited businesses in the area to learn about becoming hosts for EV charging stations.

Vice Chair Mirsky informed the commission that there is now a first draft of the ordinance. Vice Chair Mirsky informed the commission that the subcommittee is using a parking table as a template to incorporate EV charging requirements. Vice Chair Mirsky informed the commission that the subcommittee will review the parking table at their next meeting.

Outreach to Schools

No update.

Report from Environmental Commission

Vice Chair Mirsky informed the commission that Councilmember Griswold asked the Environmental Commission for input on the environmental impacts of transportation projects. Vice Chair Mirsky suggested that the commission may be the more appropriate body to do so, together with staff and the Environmental Commission. Chair Lenski and Vice Chair Mirsky discussed how to determine the commission's role in tasks such as evaluating the sustainability perspective of projects.

Vice Chair Mirsky informed the Environmental Commission held elections, with Steve Brown was elected Chair, Susan Hutton elected Vice Chair, and Christopher Graham elected as the representative on the Transportation Master Plan CAC.

Vice Chair Mirsky informed the commission that the Environmental Commission passed a Youth Commissioners Resolution, along with a resolution asking the Washtenaw County Road Commission to reduce its use of herbicides through the adoption of a comprehensive road side vegetative management plan.

Vice Chair Mirsky informed the commission that the Environmental Commission requested an update to the Solid Waste Update Report.

Vice Chair Mirsky informed the commission that the Natural Features Working Group would explore a Heritage Tree Ordinance based on best practices.

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Chair Lenski proposed a public working session in August as there is not a regular meeting. The commission expressed general interest. Chair Lenski proposed as an action item surveying the availability of commissioners to select a date.

Vice Chair Mirsky discussed the Rolling Sculpture Car Show that takes place in Ann Arbor and pursuing the opportunity to display electric vehicles at public car events in Ann Arbor, which would require reserving a space in advance.

September

- Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Commissioner Colvin-Garcia: Ann Arbor Public Schools

Action Items

1. Regular updates on Fire Station 6 and other City solar sites
2. Inviting speaker from Ann Arbor Public Schools
3. Determine how to identify the transportation plans
4. City work with Rolling Sculpture Car Show and the opportunity to include electric vehicles

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lenski adjourned the meeting.

All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:

City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
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Requests made with less than two business days' notice may not be able to be accommodated.

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

Live Web Streaming: <https://a2gov.org/watchctn>
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