



# City of Ann Arbor

## Formal Minutes - Draft

### Environmental Commission

301 E. Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
[http://a2gov.legistar.com/  
Calendar.aspx](http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)

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Thursday, August 26, 2021

7:00 PM

Electronic Meeting Working Session

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**This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and  
online at [a2gov.org/watchCTN](http://a2gov.org/watchCTN)**

**To speak at public comment call 206-337-9723 or 213-338-8477 or Toll Free 877-853-5247  
or 888-788-0099 Enter Meeting ID: 940 0438 4426**

#### CALL TO ORDER

*Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm*

#### LAND HERITAGE STATEMENT

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 9 - Lisa Disch, Shannan Gibb-Randall, Kathy Griswold, John Callewaert, Stephen C Brown, John Mirsky, Rita Mitchell, Chris Vanden Broek, and Yongwen Zheng

**Absent:** 3 - Christopher L. Graham, Robert Needham, and Lunia Oriol

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Approved as presented**

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Approved as presented**

**21-1557**

**Attachments:** [FormalMinutes22-Jul-2021-10-43-23.pdf](#)

**Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council  
due back on 8/30/2021**

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

*No calls for public commentary*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A2ZERO**

*Chairperson Stephen Brown started the discussion by reiterating that Ordinance drafts are the major tangible work product of the Commission, with Resolutions as necessary in support of City policy. Efficient and well-led Working Groups are necessary to achieving these goals. The natural progression is definition of the problem, investigation of causes, SWOT evaluation of remedies, then recommendations embodied as drafted Ordinance changes that include both Council and Staff input before being presented, discussed, and voted on in a full Commission meeting. Commissioner John Mirsky voiced support, and added that regular, usually monthly, meetings with SMART goals and Action Points are vital for each Working Group to succeed in an efficient and effective manner. Each work group should commit to a time frame for deliverable actions. Commissioner and Councilperson DIsch added that a City Staff person should participate in each Working Group from its founding, to ensure alignment with City practices. Commissioner and Councilperson Griswold emphasized that the use of Staff time must be respected, and Community Education by Commission volunteers should also be an ongoing activity of the Commission. Chair Brown mentioned that there are two vacancies on the Commission, and that candidates with experience and knowledge of Water Quality and Storm Water Management should be a priority for nominations.*

***Topics for Future Meetings and Working Groups:***

*Gelman Plume events may need to be discussed on short notice Phosphorus nutrient pollution into the Huron River, with an invitation extended to the Michigan Attorney General's office for their participation. (KG)*

*PFAS contamination of the City's drinking water, storm water discharges, wastewater discharges, and bio solids*

*Water Quality: Commissioners Gibb-Randall, Griswold, Needham (to be confirmed), and a recruit will form a Working Group to consider Storm Water Management improvements.*

**Air Quality**

**Water Quality****\*Gelman Update****\*Phosphorus Discharges****\*PFAS**

*PFAS Report- Chairperson Stephen Brown reported PFAS presentations will be coming in the future. Council person Kathy Griswold reported State AG Dana Nessell would like to attend our next PFAS presentation.*

**Natural Features**

*Natural Features- Commissioner John Mirsky reported the group is working on the UDC to protect Landmark and Heritage Trees.*

**Pollinators**

*Pollinators Working Group- Vice Chairperson Rita Mitchell is working on a project to reduce lawns*

**Solid Waste**

*Solid Waste- Commissioner John Callewaert reported Circular Economy Metrics grant placed with Next Cycle. The first phase will include working with an intern to define the metrics. Then a proposal to CEASE will be placed at U of M for further assistance.*

**\*Zero Waste**

*Zero Waste Working Group- Council Member Lisa Disch reported the group is studying a White Paper to assist in reaffirming the concept and defining it. They are working on creating target goals, along with strategies to reach Zero Waste. There also must be alignment with the A2ZERO Plan and SWRMP going forward. The white paper will support the forthcoming resolution.*

**\*Construction and Demolition**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR***Ongoing Working Groups:*

*Natural Features: Discussion deferred; Commissioners Christopher Graham and John Mirsky are continuing to work on changes to support landmark and heritage trees.*

*Pollinators: Vice Chairperson Rita Mitchell reported that the group is working on a revised web site with links to reference material. Outreach to large property owners has stagnated. Commissioner John Mirsky offered to provide information to connect with several groups for further investigation. Next up will include outreach work with local allied groups to support shrinking ornamental turf grass in yards.*

*Zero Waste: Council member Lisa Disch and Commissioner John Callewaert continue work with assessing data from the returnable restaurant containers, will be applying for another grant from NextCycle to set up metrics for a circular economy. A third grant is being discussed to connect with small businesses.*

*Recycling/Drop Off Station: Commissioner Chris VandenBroek is working on revisions of the A-Z Guide to support effective information for the public to recycle materials that will be managed by the MRF. Commissioner Yongwen Zheng suggested including different languages, to support diverse groups who will reference the information. Commissioner Chris VandenBroek reported a rejection rate of 10% of materials sent to the MRF, and diversion of 50% of trash from landfill. Chairperson Stephen Brown added that extended producer responsibility for materials is on the horizon nationally.*

*Construction & Demolition Recycling: A core group of stakeholders has been assembled and a first meeting will be scheduled for September. Jennifer Petosky a City staff worker is a member, and City management processes will be followed going forward.*

*Planning Commission: Infill development in south area near freeway, and in downtown. Discussion included providing adequate ventilation and an issue of potential diesel fumes in the development planned for the old Y lot.*

*Parks: No report.*

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#### REPORT FROM STAFF

*Staff Liaison Galen Hardy reported that the second cohort of Climate Ambassadors will be starting training soon. He is impressed with the level of talent of people who have engaged with the program.*

*OSI will be participating in Earth fest at U of M on September 23rd*

#### ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

*Deer cull presentation by Humane Society of Huron Valley (BN)  
Potential review of revisions of Chapter 40, Trees and Other Vegetation  
(RM,KG)  
MRF update (SCB)*

#### NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

*Next Meeting on September 23, 2021 at 7pm*

#### PUBLIC COMMENTARY

*No one for public commentary*

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Meeting adjourned at 9:17pm*

**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](mailto: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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