

City of Ann Arbor

100 N. Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
www.a2gov.org



Action Minutes

Wednesday, September 3, 2008

4:30 PM

City Council Chamber

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Laura Rubin officially called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 100 N. Fifth Ave, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Laura Rubin, Sylvia Taylor and Peter Allen

Absent 4 - Michael Garfield, Jennifer Santi Hall, Gilbert S. Omenn and Christopher S. Easthope

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Bloomer, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 08-0843 Greenbelt Advisory Commission Minutes - July 2, 2008

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that the regular session minutes of July 2, 2008 be approved with changes by the Commission and forwarded on to City Council for filing. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried. The changes were as follows:

Land Acquisition Application No. 2007-15

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Bloomer, that the City Council partner with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Department and Scio Township on the purchase of the property identified in Application ID number 2007-15 and to provide \$[2]350,000.00 towards the purchase. As part of the motion the Commission also asks that Washtenaw County to update the appraisal and to appraise the property by individual parcel as well as a single parcel.

Note [] indicates deleted language.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 08-0845 Bid Process Request For Proposals (RFP)

Peg Kohring explained that the idea of the bid process is to send a draft out to developers and banks, encouraging them to submit a proposal for land that may be surplus to them at this point. Commissioner Hall worked on this process as well. She suggested a two track process.

Fast Track - If the bidder put in a price that is low enough to accept, the Commission would close on the property after the appraisal was completed. If the bid was not low enough to meet the Greenbelt desires, then a Farm and Ranch Protection Program cycle would be used. This cycle may take up to 18 months. The request for bids would be sent out in September and responded to in October. The Commission would begin to evaluate in November. Five million dollars would be advertised as available as part of the bid process.

Ms. Kohring welcomed comments about how the bid would be formatted, and willing to provide more clarification if needed.

After further discussion and answering questions of the Commission, staff was asked to provide a list of possible parcels to the Commission before sitting down with the owners of those parcels.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bloomer, seconded by Commissioner Ezekiel, that the Bid Pross be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Officers

Commissioner Garfield arrived at 4:48 p.m.

Commissioner Ezekeil moved, seconded by Commissioner Allen that Laura Rubin serve second a term as Chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission.

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

Commissioner Rubin moved, seconded by Commissioner Allen that Jennifer Santi Hall serves a second term as Vice Chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission.

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

ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Laura Rubin, Sylvia Taylor and Peter Allen

Absent 3 - Jennifer Santi Hall, Gilbert S. Omenn and Christopher S. Easthope

2. Staff Update

Ginny Trocchio updated the Commission on the two rounds of requesting funds from FRPP. The first round was awarded grant funds for two properties. They received notice that Michigan would not be receiving more funds for the second round. The six properties that were applied for will be put towards the 2009 round. Michigan did not receive funds because of several older deals that have not closed, therefore, money was turned back to FRPP. So from a national standpoint, Michigan is not

closing deals or spending the money, so funds were not given. Grant Funds from this greenbelt were not a part of funds that were returned to FRPP.

Ms. Trocchio said that she met with the City's Farmers Market Commission and informed them about the Commission's interest in doing a small farm or local food production initiative. There was great interest from the Farmer's Market Commission and they would like to set up a meeting with a few members from both commissions and discuss the idea(s) in more detail. Commissioners Hall, Taylor, Allen and Garfield were selected as members from the Greenbelt Commission.

Commissioner Omenn arrived at 4:51 p.m.

ROLL CALL

- Present** 7 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Gilbert S. Omenn, Laura Rubin, Sylvia Taylor and Peter Allen
- Absent** 2 - Jennifer Santi Hall and Christopher S. Easthope

Staff Update Continued

Ms. Trocchio also updated the Commission regarding a sign from Kent County from their PDR Program. This was something discussed by the commission in the past about getting some properties, if not all of them, equipped with some form of a sign on the property.

The commission discussed the possibility of placing signs on the properties. The consensus was that it was a good ideal to have the signs, but the signs should have more of a statement on it and less of a logo appearance. The statement should explain that it is a part of the program and still indicate that it is private property. The commission asked that staff come up with a draft of a sign.

Commissioner Bloomer said that there are four townships with funds around Ann Arbor that have been discussing this issue. The township groups would like to meet with this Commission to discuss the signs in more detail.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS

COMMISSIONER EZEKIEL

Commissioner Ezekiel reported that a large conference regarding farm land preservation was held in Lansing Michigan this past July. The Department of Agriculture sponsored it and Peg Kohring and Mike Garfield were presenters at the conference. Both Mike and Peg gave nice presentations at the conference.

Mr. Ezekiel also mentioned that Ingham County became the first County to approve a PDR Ordinance at the August Primary.

PEG KOHRING

Ms. Kohring said that they were asked to attend a Michigan Association of Countys meeting to talk about the Ann Arbor Greenbelt. There was a lot of interaction about

how Ann Arbor did what they did.

COMMISSIONER OMENN

Commissioner Omenn asked that the Bid Process include a fist paragraph or a cover letter that says something to the effect of "This is not to the farmer/landowner. This is an opportunity for you to do...." (It should be written in plain English.) More like a marketing statement or a friendly communication to our partner who is the landowner.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Commissioner Garfield, that the Commission enter into Closed Session. On a roll call, the vote was as follows, with the Chair declaring the motion carried (The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.):

Yeas: 7 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Garfield, Commissioner Omenn, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Allen

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Santi Hall and Councilmember Easthope

MEETING RECONVENED

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, that the meeting reconvene. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 5:40 p.m.

1. Property 2007-23

A motion was made by Commissioner Omenn, seconded by Allen, that the Commission recommend to City Council to contribute an additional \$185,000.00 plus closing and monitoring costs toward to the purchase of property 2007-23. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

2. Application 2008-01

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Garfield, that the Commission recommend that City Council make an offer of \$2,000.00 per acre for the development rights on application 2008-01. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Garfield, seconded by Commissioner Omenn, that the meeting be adjourned. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.