

City of Ann Arbor

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

Thursday, February 6, 2014

4:30 PM

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

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Riseng called the meeting of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission to order at 4:33 p.m. in the Guy C Larcom Jr. Building, 2nd Floor Council Chambers, 301 E. Huron St.

ROLL CALL

Present 7 - Catherine Riseng, Shannon Brines, Archer H. Christian, Christopher Taylor, Jennifer Fike, John Ramsburgh, and Jean Cares

Absent 2 - Peter Allen, and Stephanie Buttrey

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Fike, seconded by Cares, that the Agenda be Approved as presented. On a voice vote, Chairperson Riseng declared the motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - Kris Olsson, Watershed Ecologist, Huron River Watershed Council, Presentation on Bioreserve Project

Kris Olsson, Watershed Ecologist, Huron River Watershed Council, gave a presentation on Bioreserve Project. HRWC is Michigan's first and oldest watershed council that protects the Huron River and its tributary streams, lakes, wetlands and groundwater. The Huron River Watershed Bioreserve Project has several partners. It partners with conservancies in the watershed, as well as Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Greenbelt Advisory Commission.

During the presentation, Kris Olsson discussed HRWC's key messages: The intent to maintain the health of the watershed. The encouragement of higher density where infrastructure already exists. Lastly, to preserve natural areas so they can continue to provide the ecological services necessary to maintain quality of water, air, land and life. She discussed the landscape of the Huron River Watershed past and future, future trends and the assessment of ecological integrity. (A Copy of the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Commissioner Brines asked if there are any plans in the future to update or revise the watershed maps. Kris Olsson responded that they have actually considered adding "unplowed land" to the maps.

Commissioner Ramsburgh asked who the HRWC partners with at the University of Michigan. Kris Olsson responded with a list of people that have partnered with HRWC in the past from the University of Michigan. Commissioner Ramsburgh stated he would like to discuss the possibility of internship opportunities at a later date.

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

A-1 [14-0222](#) Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting of January 2, 2014

Attachments: 01-02-14 GAC Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Christian, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, that the Minutes be Approved by the Board with minor changes and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, Chairperson Riseng declared the motion carried.

B OLD BUSINESS

None.

C NEW BUSINESS

1. Overview Scoring Criteria

Ginny Trocchio gave a presentation describing the Scoring Criteria that is utilized by the Greenbelt Advisory Commission in its selection of new properties. (A copy of this presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office.) The public can also access this presentation on the Greenbelt website.

2. Staff Update

Ginny Trocchio announced that Congress recently passed a new Farm Bill. She explained, as it pertains to the programs used by the Commission, as anticipated the farm bill combined the Conservation Easement programs into one program. She also noted that this included the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program, Grassland Reserve Program and the Wetland Reserve Program.

Ginny Trocchio updated the Commission on the registry program. She stated that the brochures have been completed and are being printed. She also plans to work with Commissioner Brines and Commissioner Riseng on a summary of the registry program to submit to City Council.

D NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None.

E REPORT FROM COMMISSION COMMITTEES

None.

F COMMUNICATIONS

Chairperson Riseng stated she and Commissioner Cares met with The Ann Arbor Observer and gave an update on the progress of the Greenbelt Project. She expects a an article to be published sometime this spring.

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

None.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION

A motion was made by Commissioner Brines, seconded by Commissioner Fike, that the Commission enter into closed session to discuss land acquisition. On a voice vote, with Chairperson Riseng declaring the motion carried.

MEETING RECONVENED

5:29 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fike, seconded by Commissioner Christian, that Greenbelt Advisory Commission meeting reconvene. On a voice vote, the Chairperson Riseng declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.