

City of Ann Arbor

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

Thursday, September 5, 2013

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 4:30 p.m. in the Guy C. Larcom Jr. Building, 2nd Floor Council Chambers, 301 E. Huron St.

ROLL CALL

Present 9 - Peter Allen, Catherine Riseng, Shannon Brines, Archer H. Christian, Christopher Taylor, Stephanie Buttrey, Jennifer Fike, John Ramsburgh, and Jean Cares

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Brines arrives at this time.

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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

A APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A-1 [13-1053](#) Greenbelt Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes of 7/11/13

A motion was made by Commissioner Fike, seconded by Commissioner Buttrey, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, chairperson Riseng declared the motion carried.

B NEW BUSINESS

B1 Introduction of New Commissioners

Chairperson Riseng asked that each Commissioner give a brief introduction of themselves. There are two new Commissioners present for the meeting and she welcomed them both.

Commissioner Jean Cares stated that she and her husband are residents of Webster Township. She has a Greenbelt protected farm in Webster Township.

Commissioner John Ramsburgh stated he is native of the Ann Arbor area. He has an interest in preserving green space around Ann Arbor and a background in

conservation easement and environmental policy.

B2 [13-1051](#) Conservation Easement Overview Presentation

Ginny Trocchio gave a presentation regarding an overview of Conservation Easements. The presentation covered easement basics, conservation easement appraisals, tax implications, drafting easements, standard easement provisions and monitoring and enforcement. (A copy of the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office.) Lastly, Ms. Trocchio noted upcoming discussion topics that included a field trip, Greenbelt Commission Partnerships, long term planning and Joint Greenbelt Advisory Commission and Parks Advisory Commission meeting.

Commissioner Fike asked if Ms. Trocchio if she was aware of any legal challenges to easements (nationally). Also if there was a fund available representing the interest of conservancy against challenges. Ms. Trocchio responded that she believed that the Land Trust Alliance is establishing such a fund. Ms. Trocchio stated that she has heard of conservation challenges and litigation in other areas. She continued that it is important to foster relationships with the landowners so that the Commission can be involved should the ownership of the land changes.

Received and Filed

B3 [13-1052](#) Annual Report and Financials

Ginny Trocchio reviewed and distributed reports on the Activity and Financial of the Commission. (A copy of this report is available in the Clerk's Office). The Commission discussed the previous year's activity and financial. There were questions that were addressed by Ms. Trocchio.

Received and Filed

B4 **Staff Updates**

2013 BUS TOUR

Ginny Trocchio stated she has been finalizing the details for the bus tour scheduled for September 21, 2013. Commissioner Buttery asked how the bus tour was being advertised. Ms. Trocchio stated that information regarding the tour has been posted on the City of Ann Arbor's website, social media, sent to the email list serves and a newsletter to Ann Arbor residents. Commissioner Ramsburgh noted that he had some difficulty finding the advertisement of the tour. He was able to find it however he noted that it wasn't really obvious.

HOMEGROWN FESTIVAL

Ms. Trocchio announced that this coming Saturday, September 7, 2013 is the Home Grown Festival. She said that they would be in attendance providing information to the public. She welcomed any available Commissioners to participate.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None.

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

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

None.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION

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

Yeas: 7 - Chair Riseng, Commissioner Brines, Councilmember Taylor, Commissioner Buttrey, Commissioner Fike, Commissioner Ramsburgh, and Cares

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Allen, and Commissioner Christian

MEETING RECONVENED

5:47 p.m.

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

MOTION APPLICATION

Motion to recommend to Council to partner with Washtenaw County for the purchase of the development rights on the property identified in application #2012-11 and contribute up to 25% of purchase price, not to exceed \$37,995.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cares, seconded by Commissioner Ramsburgh, that the Motion Application be approved. On a voice vote, Chairperson Riseng declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

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