



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes

Environmental Commission

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

Thursday, January 24, 2019

7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Needham called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present: 10 - Christopher L. Graham, Susan Hutton, Robert Needham, Karie Slavik, Shannan Gibb-Randall, Anne Bannister, John Callewaert, Stephen C Brown, John Mirsky, and Mike Appel

Absent: 2 - Allison Skinner, and Chip Smith

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Hutton, seconded by Graham, that the agenda be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

[19-0156](#) Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes of 12-6-18

Attachments: Minutes from the Environmental Commission meeting on 12-6-18.pdf

Postponed until February meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

There was no public commentary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

[19-0169](#) Budget Priority Discussion

Attachments: City of Ann Arbor FY 20-21 Budget Presentation Updated.pdf

City Administrator Howard Lazarus gave a presentation to outline the process and priorities of the upcoming FY 2020-21 City budget process as well as to get input from the Commission. City Administrator reported that the total City budget revenues are slightly under \$400 million annually. He gave a snapshot of some of the current priorities of the Office of Sustainability and Innovations and for other environmental concerns like water quality and recycling. In response to a question about the status of the county millage rebate, City Administrator Lazarus reported about how those funds have been used in the past and that the City is working with the University of Michigan to develop a survey asking the public about how they want the millage money to be used in the future. Other issues brought up by the Commissioners include: road repairs and pedestrian safety; comparisons with other Town Gown cities; safety services; linking budgetary priorities to outcomes; enterprise funds; gas taxes and electric vehicles; and zoning and property taxes. Commission shared the following priorities, including: getting a functional Materials Recovery Facility; expanding organics recovery in the downtown and year-round; a community outreach program that works with neighborhoods including natural features; pairing equity and energy; a low-income electric vehicle carsharing program like in LA; solar; electrifying units; leadership in resource management; 1,4 dioxane issues; stormwater issues; Treeline Greenway; Sustainability Plan; and renewable energy sources. [The video for this item runs between 00:01:30 and 00:49:17.]

19-0157 PFAS/PFOAS Presentation, Brian Steiglitz, City of Ann Arbor

Attachments: Environmental Commission Presentation 1-24-19 final.pdf

Water Treatment Plant Manager Brian Steglitz gave a presentation about PFAS chemicals and the 1,4 dioxane Gelman Plume. PFOA and PFOS exposure is primarily through ingestion and is bio-accumulated. EPA Health Advisory Level of 70 parts per trillion. Proposed legislation in Michigan of 10 parts per trillion. The water treatment plant is monitoring the City's drinking water twice a month for these chemicals, is migrating its carbon filters to an upgraded version, and is participating in national research opportunities. Commissioners asked questions about what emerging technologies Japan and the European Union are using for these chemicals and how the City is engaging with the public on PFAS and PFOA. In addition, the City was encouraged to support measures to address the root cause of residents' health concerns: the continued use

of these categories of chemicals. In regards to the 1,4 dioxane Gelman Plume, the City has committed to quarterly updates and is currently in litigation. Mr. Steglitz reported that there is no consensus for understanding how the Plume is moving over time. Commissioners asked about potential stormwater infiltration issues regarding the Plume, removal rate at the Plume, as well as exposure pathways. [The video for this item runs between 00:49:30 and 1:24:50.]

19-0155 Solid Waste Regionalization, Theo Eggermont, Washtenaw County

Attachments: Articles of Incorporation.pdf, Contracting process.pdf, FAQ-Regionalization.1.18.19.pdf

Theo Eggermont from Washtenaw County gave a presentation about the formation of a proposed Regional Solid Waste Authority consisting of eight member communities. There is a focus on improving the quantity and quality of the recycling stream and then attract local processing. Education of the public will be a key focus of the Authority. Some of its benefits could include: optimized routes for collections, greater buying power, and economies of scale. Bob Davis, outside attorney for Washtenaw County, spoke about his work with Oakland County's regional waste authority and got into more details about the Washtenaw County Regional Solid Waste Authority, including that the Authority will likely be running three to four years from now and that the goal is that a handful of communities that have a market reputation for high quality, high valuable, highly sought recyclables so one or two private entities could manage those at good rates. Commissioners brought up concerns, including that "yard waste" is included but not the broader term "organic materials", that the Authority is not allowed to own real property for disposal, about the collaborative contracting process, and that rough timelines would be useful. Another question was why each municipality is slated to have one vote despite different populations and tonnages between municipalities. Mr. Davis spoke about how an amendment process could be used to work on these inequities. Mr. Davis suggested that the first Board meeting could be as soon as April or May. [The video for this item runs between 1:24:50 and 2:07:20.]

19-0154 Resolution to Recommend That City Council Approve the City Become a Constituent Member of the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority (WRRMA)

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

19-0158 Support for a Strong Clean Water Act and Strong Clean Water Rule

A motion was made by Councilmember Bannister, seconded by Graham, that the Resolution be Approved by the Commission. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

19-0170 Responses to Environmental Commission's Questions Regarding Solid Waste

Attachments: EC Questions-SolidWaste_2018-12-21_Response Document_2019-01-22.pdf

Planning Commission: They have worked on the Capital Improvements Plan and are considering weighting and sustainability that will get worked out in the next year.

Energy Commission: They had a presentation from a UM student on recycling or reuse of urine. Commissioner Mirsky gave a presentation on what our German sister city is doing around climate. They are considering a solar access ordinance draft to help preserve solar access once installed. Every Tuesday evening is reserved for Commission and sub-committee meetings, including lighting ordinance; home energy score at time of marketing ordinance; community engagement group; 100% clean and renewable municipal operations; and EV readiness ordinance. This approach should be considered by the Environmental Commission as a good practice to accelerate its work.

Parks: Pickleball courts have new stripes and there was a great season at the canoe liveries.

Council: The Council Policy Agenda Committee will be recommending that Council push the state of Michigan to have more strict environmental rules than the federal and state.

Chair Needham: Commissioner Josh Rego has moved out of state and resigned from the Commission.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Dr. Missy Stults, manager of the Office of Sustainability and Innovations, gave a staff update. There have been two awards for grants – to A2 STEAM for a solar project and to Leslie Science and Nature Center for a nature-based playscape. The office will be submitting a grant proposal for aging in place efficiently. Ann Arbor was accepted for a peer exchange around resilience hubs. A volunteer solar program will be introduced soon. Environmentally Preferred Policy is being updated.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

February 28, 2019 7pm

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

There was no public commentary.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Needham adjourned the meeting at 9:21pm.

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**City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

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