



# 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)

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Thursday, June 28, 2018

7:00 PM

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

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#### CALL TO ORDER

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 10 - Susan Hutton, Allison Skinner, Robert Needham, Chip Smith, John Mirsky, Mike Appel, Joshua Rego, Shannan Gibb-Randall, Anne Bannister, and John Callewaert

**Absent:** 2 - Christopher L. Graham, and Karie Slavik

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Skinner, seconded by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, that the agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[18-1120](#) Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes of 4-26-18

**Attachments:** Minutes Environmental Commission 4-26-18.pdf

A motion was made by Skinner, seconded by Planning Commission Rep Gibb-Randall, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council and should be returned by 7/30/2018. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

##### Election of Chair

*Bob Needham was nominated to be Chair.*

A motion was made by Chair Hutton, seconded by Councilmember Smith, that Bob Needham be elected as Chair. On a voice vote, the

Chair declared the motion carried.

### Election of Vice-Chair

*Allison Skinner was nominated to be re-elected as Vice Chair.*

**A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, that Allison Skinner be re-elected as Vice Chair of the Commission. On a voice vote, Chair Needham declared the motion carried.**

### PUBLIC COMMENTARY

*James Cornell Wilson III spoke about the history of African-Americans in United States.*

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### NEW BUSINESS

[18-1138](#) Huron River Watershed Council's Presentation on Water Quality Metrics

**Attachments:** HRWC\_ann arbor environmental commission.pptx

*Dr. Paul Steen gave a PowerPoint presentation about a new water quality metric that the Huron River Watershed Council developed to rate different aspects of the health of the Huron River. The video from this segment runs between 10:25 and 55:10.*

### REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR

*The last Parks Commission meeting was cancelled. Planning Commission is continuing to process multiple medical marijuana permits each meeting. The Energy Commission has formed an Ordinance Subcommittee which is currently working on a Dark Skies Ordinance with the hope of having an ordinance in place in 6 months to a year. The Subcommittee is also working on a project to mandate an energy efficiency rating for homes at the time they are listed for sale. The Energy Commission has also been concerned with climate funding from the county millage rebate. Councilmember Bannister spoke about how some of the road and sidewalk projects that the City is undertaking are impacting trees. She also thanked Commissioner Mirsky for meeting with the mental health advocates about millage funding. She also reported that there might be a community group in Ward 1 that is interested in*

*applying for the Sustaining Ann Arbor Together grant program for a community garden. Commissioner Mirsky gave more details about this program.*

#### **REPORT FROM STAFF**

*Staff Drennen spoke about how there will be upcoming remediation efforts at the DTE MichCon site. Staff is working to implement an Environmentally Preferred Procurement Policy. Drennen also reported that staff is working in the time of marketing energy audits project in partnership with the Energy Commission. Staff is also working on improving energy efficiency standards for rental units in the City. There may be a pilot offering to increase local uptake of DTE's Home Energy Consultations. Equity Foundations training to increase awareness of racial equity issues for City staff and partners is well underway and may include development of a racial equity plan for how the climate millage funds will be spent. An Electric Vehicles Strategy Plan is in the works. The MAUI Streetlights settlement through the MPSC is saving the City approximately \$50,000 annually. The Honeywell audits are currently being reviewed by building staff for possible implementation of energy efficiency projects. A document was included in the Commission agenda packet about pesticide and herbicide policies at the local and state level. Staff Drennen reported that Dr. Missy Stults will be starting the new Office of Sustainability and Innovation on July 16th. Lastly, Staff Drennen reported about ongoing and evolving partnership opportunities with Michigan Saves.*

#### **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

#### **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

*The next scheduled meeting is July 26 at 7pm. The following meeting on August 23rd has been rescheduled to begin at 5pm.*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

*Steven Brown reported that he was a volunteer with the ICPJ Sustaining Ann Arbor Together mini-grant and that it was a good experience. He has also volunteering with the Huron River Watershed Council. He believes that the water quality metrics are not independent variables. He mentioned his concern that there were no error bars on the graphs and he said that he hopes that the results will be replicable year to year.*

*Councilmember Bannister asked for information about how vacancies on*

*the Commission are handled. Councilmember Smith spoke about his experiences with this issue since he has been on the Commission.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Needham adjourned the meeting at 8:28pm.*

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

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