



City of Ann Arbor

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

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

6:00 PM City Hall, 301 E. Huron St. 2nd Floor Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Appleyard called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Wayne Appleyard, David A. Wright, VACANT POSITION 1, Kenneth J. Wadland, Mark Clevey, Erik Eibert, and Shoshannah Lenski

Absent: 5 - Charles Hookham, John Hieftje, Brigit Macomber, Mike Shriberg, and Elizabeth Gibbons

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

(Later added to agenda: appointment from Energy to Environmental Commission.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

[14-1187](#)

Ann Arbor Energy Commission Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2014

Attachments: Energy Commission Minutes 5-13-14.pdf

Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council due back on 9/8/2014

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Geisler: Events coming up: Huron River Day at Gallup Park this Sunday, July 13th. Ann Arbor SPARK Energy Forum on brewing with clean energy will be September 11th at 5pm. Earth Fest 2014 on UM Diag will be 10am-2pm on September 17th. New report from Bloomberg News predicts renewables will be 2/3 of new generation for power plants in the next fifteen years. MPSC Solar Working Group final report has been submitted to the MPSC Commissioners, and has been sent to Energy Commission from staff. City is a partner in an application to US Department of Energy Solar Market Pathways grant - next phase of DOE's Solar Cities/Solar Sunshot. Clevey noted the last Sunshot application from the State of MI through Clean Energy Coalition was not

awarded but the State Energy Office granted the work to do much of what was proposed, including developing the statewide guide to community solar.

Clevey proposed and motioned to provide a resolution of support from the Commission for the grant application, with the following text:

Whereas, the Ann Arbor Energy Commission is aware of the Solar Market Pathways grant opportunity from the U.S. Department of Energy;
Whereas, Ann Arbor is a Solar America City designee from the U.S. Department of Energy;

Resolved, the Ann Arbor Energy Commission supports the Solar Market Pathways grant application submitted with support from Ann Arbor and the City's Energy Office.

(Moved by Clevey, seconded by Wadland. Approved unanimously on a voice vote)

Appleyard: Late June, Germany had a day where solar provided 50% of electricity supply (and around 70% of capacity there is on homes, fields, or otherwise distributed).

Clevey: September 21-22, Bill McKibben and 350.org helping organize the climate march in New York City; same time as UN discussions.

Presentation from Renovo

Shane LaHousse (Managing Partner with Renovo): Founded in 2008. Looking to accelerate solar adoption. Main product is inverters for solar PV systems. 100 systems installed across U.S.. Partnered with McNaughton-McKay in Michigan. Have done high-profile projects in MI, including Corner Brewery, Barclay Park Community Center, Cherryland Electric community solar project, Michigan Theater, a net-zero home on city's west-side, Great Oaks off of Jackson, and currently doing Darkhorse Brewery's inverter(s).

Office is on west Huron, behind the YMCA. The project site is mixed use, office and light industrial. The building is more the 100 years old, and has been divided into multiple offices. Replacing roof in fall, led to idea of PV. Building owner pays utilities so he is eager to reduce his costs. 48 kW on the rooftop plus a canopy on front of building with PV also. Total system size is 60 kW.

Working closely with commercial roofers so there is confidence that PV on the roof won't shorten roof life. The system will be modular (since PV life will outlast the roof), so it can be used when a replacement roof goes in. Return on investment in under 6 years (if gains DTE Solar current Incentives). Older buildings are the biggest opportunity for solar, not just new buildings. The commercial market for solar should be growing (even eclipse residential and utility solar). City could begin asking new developers whether renewables are a component of their development to further advance this locally.

Wadland: Are your roofer contractors generally local? LaHousse: Renovo more focused on equipment side, which are Michigan run. Use McNaughton-McKay, Sri Energy (who did Great Oaks co-housing solar project), SUR Energy, Patriot Solar (racking), among others.

Wright asked about angle of the PV. LaHousse responded that lower angles (15 degrees), means there will be time in winter that won't be as productive.

Clevey asked if there would be system storage/batteries. LaHousse said system would be grid-tied. DTE restricts storage for projects seeking to utilize Solar Currents.

Nomination to Environmental Commission

[14-1190](#)

Appleyard nominated Clevey to serve on Environmental Commission. Motioned by Wadland, seconded Eibert. (Approved unanimously)

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Climate Action Plan

Geisler: Climate adaptation videos ready, and include a mix of video interviews, info-graphics and animation. At October's meeting they will be aired at the start of the meeting. Good content for introducing or opening up meetings in the city. Adaptation work has been going on for a long time in Ann Arbor just not under the name. GLAA-C at U of M is convening different cities in the region and sharing best practices around adaptation, so have been a good resource on top of providing the grant for the videos.

The full Climate Partnership work group meets tomorrow. A contract for support for community climate work is expected, so Commissioners can send staff ideas/actions you wish to see given attention over the next year.

Appleyard discussed the recent GLAA-C climate adaptation in the Great Lakes region conference as a good event that was well-attended.

Commercial Benchmarking & Disclosure

Appleyard: Had introductory meeting of full subcommittee and are moving ahead. Plan on three more at this point. Next meeting planned for August, focusing on Portfolio Manager. There is also an upcoming webinar for utilities to adapt their systems with Portfolio Manager. Clevey mentioned renewable energy being a component of the Portfolio Manager system used. US DOE has also developed a program called SEED to output the data. Lenski mentioned that renewables like solar on the building would skew total usage so need to consider this (Solar Currents systems with DTE can see total usage).

Renewable Energy Access/Community Solar

Wright: Looking through permitting cost information obtained from staff will be next step for the committee, and follow-up with the Assessor on the question of modifications to the process for assessing taxes on solar equipment.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Wright: Given Clean Power Plan rules from EPA, will the state be gathering input or submitting comment in a way the Energy Commission can be engaged with?

Lenski: Currently 120 day comment period for the proposed rule, then meetings among the PSC and utilities likely to happen. EPA has calculated that the rules would result in a 30 percent reduction in CO2 emissions from a 2005 baseline by 2030. The regulations as proposed have states set reductions as emissions per kilowatt hour. EPA took emissions in 2012. EPA applied changes in capacity factors, plant dispatches, renewables, efficiency, and (possibly) coal retirements. How states meet the target is up to each state. Statewide trading schemes would be allowed and other measures that constitute "outside the fence" approaches extending behind historical power plant activity regulation.

Clevey: Does MISO have a role? **Lenski:** not clear yet (possibly with dispatching between plants and fuel source types). Further discussion on role of the MPSC as the source for a state plan versus the legislature.

ADJOURNMENT

Appleyard motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7 p.m. (moved by Wright, seconded by Wadland).

Visit www.a2energy.org for community energy information in Ann Arbor,
or
www.a2gov.org/energy to learn more about the City's Energy Programs

Regular meetings shown Live and replayed on CTN Channel 16 and at
www.a2gov.org/ctn