



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, August 22, 2019

7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: 3 - Susan Hutton, Allison Skinner, and Jonathan Overpeck

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[19-1362](#) Revised Minutes from the Environmental Commission Meeting of 6-27-19

Attachments: Env Commission minutes 6-27-19.pdf

These Minutes were approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Talbin Hack, long-time board member of Recycle Ann Arbor, read a statement of concern about the Solid Waste Resource Management Plan. Tom McMurtry spoke on behalf of Recycle Ann Arbor. Ian Robinson, Huron Valley Labor Council, reported that his organization and others prefer the alternative proposal to consolidate solid waste collection by waste stream. Alana DeRiggi spoke on behalf of a new

organization, Pesticide-Free Ann Arbor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATION TO RECYCLE ANN ARBOR

Erica Bertram accepted a Sustaining Ann Arbor Together grant award from Dr. Stults, and then gave a short presentation about the new and improved Recycle Ann Arbor's A to Z Recycling Guide.

[19-1623](#) Recycle Ann Arbor A-Z Recycling Guide Becomes a Zero Waste Guide

Attachments: A to Z Zero Waste Guide Presentation Aug 2019rev2.pdf,
A to Z Zero Waste Guide Presentation Aug 2019rev2.pdf

SOLID WASTE RESOURCE MASTER PLAN

[19-1613](#) Solid Waste Resources Management Plan draft

Attachments: SWRMP - August 2019 draft.pdf

[19-1614](#) Solid Waste Resource Management Plan PowerPoint Presentation to the Environmental Commission

Attachments: Solid Waste Resource Management Plan PowerPoint Presentation to the Environmental Commission rev2.pdf

Cresson Slotten introduced the Solid Waste Resource Management Plan (SWRMP) project, introduced the project team, shared the goals of the SWRMP, went over the process for plan development, reviewed the financial model, and gave an overview of the 24 recommendations in the SWRMP. Christina Seibert from Aptim gave an overview of the public engagement activities completed as part of this process. She walked through the costs that were considered in the financial analyses and models. Mr. Slotten gave City responses to issues brought up in an email sent from Recycle Ann Arbor earlier in the day.

Chair Brown asked Mr. Slotten to recap the next steps for staff and City Council. Commissioner Mirsky asked Mr. Slotten to report on the

achievements from the previous solid waste plan and how success will be defined in the SWRMP. City Administrator Howard Lazarus responded to his concerns. Chair Brown spoke about his experiences on the Advisory Committee of the SWRMP. Ms. Siebert shared that the project team stands behind the cost savings from consolidating services across customer bases. Councilmember Smith expressed concerns about the waste diversion surcharge, the Headlee override, and the proposed user fees. Commissioner Needham asked whether the plan will go to Council the way that it is written before it goes to Council. Ms. Siebert replied that minor changes could certainly be made. Commissioner Appel asked whether Commission should wait on weighing in.

19-1615 Solid Waste Resource Management Plan Resolution from Staff

Attachments: Env Commission SWRMP Resolution.pdf

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Graham, that the resolution be Tabled until the September meeting. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion tabled.

19-1618 Memo in response to Environmental Commission Requests about Solid Waste

Attachments: Memo_Environmental Commission Reqeusts_2019-08-20.pdf

19-1638 RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING PARTIAL APPROVAL OF SOLID WASTE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (2019-2023)

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Graham, that the resolution be Tabled until the September meeting. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion tabled.

REGULATING PESTICIDE USE

Councilmember Bannister spoke about Pesticide-Free Ann Arbor and the draft resolution regarding pesticide use in Ann Arbor. She requested that this issue be discussed more fully at the December Commission meeting. Ms De Riggi and Ms. Mitchell spoke about their hopes and plans moving forward including public education and measurement.

19-1624 Memo from City Attorneys office re pesticides and state law

Attachments: Memo from City Attorneys office re pesticides and state law.pdf

Sent to Natural Features Working Group

Postponed to the Environmental Commission due back on 12/5/2019. Commissioners are encouraged to speak with Natural Areas Preservation group.

19-1631 Resolution from the Environmental Commission recommending that City Council take action to support an integrated pest management policy and endorse a pesticide-free and herbicide-free maintenance program for all parks, public spaces, and rights of way in Ann Arbor.

Sent to Natural Features Working Group

Postponed to the Environmental Commission due back on 12/5/2019. Commissioners are encouraged to speak with Natural Areas Preservation group.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR

Planning Commission: Working on many ordinances, including integrating recreational marijuana growing permits with solar to mitigate the energy used by the growers.

Energy Commission: They had a working session most recently and identified four areas of interest for the next year. Working on ordinances. PowerHours are coming back, starting on September 17th.

Natural Features Subcommittee: Focusing on better protections for trees: 1) Site plan process is good but could be strengthened for Heritage Trees. 2) How to mitigate loss of trees on single family lots. 3) Grading plans mostly do not concern trees. 4) Adding an educational component

Solid Waste Subcommittee: Talking about solid waste metrics. Working on zero waste goals.

Parks Commission: Pools open until Sept 15th. City is looking for clean-up needs around the DTE energy house. Investigation into historical contamination for new parcels coming into Parks.

Council: Closed session Monday night about Gelman issues. Joint meeting with Council and Scio Township in mid September. Potassium Iodide group is working in Detroit soon. The Environmental picnic was a huge success. Sept 20th Climate Strike. Oct 24 Env Commission

meeting focused on composting and food waste reduction. Greenbelt Advisory Committee meeting Sept 5th or Oct 3rd seeking input on their work plan. Sonic Lunch concert with Michael Franti was enjoyable.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Staff Emily Drennen gave a short overview of the recent work of the Office of Sustainability and Innovations. Solar will be installed soon on Fire Station #6 through the office's new Volunteer Solar Program. Also moving forward with solar on 13 City buildings. Commission will be getting a greenhouse gas presentation at the next meeting. Great success with a solid waste challenge for City staff this month. Good attendance at staff Lunch and Learn events. Thanks to Equity Intern Rebeca Villegas who is helping the office expand weatherization opportunities to low-income homeowners in Ann Arbor.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

No items.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

September 26, 2019 at 7pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

There was no public commentary.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:55pm.

All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:

**City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
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