

City of Ann Arbor Environmental Commission

January 22, 2015

Work Session

G.C. Larcom, Jr. Municipal Building, Basement Conference Room
301 E. Huron, Ann Arbor, MI

Call to Order:

7:06pm

Roll Call:

Present – 11

Mike Anglin, Wayne Appleyard, Sabra Briere, Chris Graham, Katherine Hollins, Susan Hutton, Benjamin Muth, Allison Skinner, Patti Smith, Missy Stults, Wendy Woods

Absent – 2

Jason Frenzel, John German

Clevey resigned as Energy Commission representative, Appleyard present as Energy Commission representative

Quorum present

Staff Present:

Jamie Kidwell-Brix

Matthew Naud

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Commissioner Stults, second by Commissioner Smith

Motion Approved on Voice Vote

Public Commentary:

None

Work Session – Discussion of Commission Priorities and Work Plan:

Implement Climate Action Plan

- Highest rated items linked to the Climate Action Plan (CAP)
- How do we establish clear strategies for work plan items?
- Connect to Ann Arbor Climate Partnership work
- What public body is working on implementing the CAP?
 - Need some level of accountability
- Several work plan items are included in the CAP
 - Need breakdown of individual goals in the CAP
- Commissioners Appleyard, Skinner, Muth, Hutton, Stults to meet to discuss CAP as work plan item

Community Resilience Visioning

- Stults to lead and to convene meeting

Incentives for Sustainable Buildings

- Suggest meeting with Planning Commission committee to discuss

- Commissioner Woods is on ordinance review committee of planning commission and will discuss topic with this committee
- Add Commissioner Appleyard and Commissioner Woods to work plan item

Implement Huron River Impoundment Management Plan (HRIMP)

- Potential to prioritize recommendations in plan
- Cheryl Saam with the City leads effort to manage weed control at Gallup
- Need to work with Park Advisory Commission (PAC) – Commissioner Stults and Councilmember Anglin to introduce topic at next PAC meeting
- Weed management at Argo, Gallup, Barton, and South Pond as potential issues
- Add Councilmembers Briere and Anglin to work plan item
- Remove Commissioner Hutton

Train Station Recommendations

- Still in initial review phase, no estimated timeline for environmental impact statement (EIS)
- Commissioner Muth suggested waiting to provide comments until the EIS is released
- Add Councilmember Anglin and Commissioner Appleyard to work plan item

Traffic Light Synchronization

- Commissioner Graham interested in following up on initial conversations with Les Sipowski at the City
- Recommendations may involve significant funding sources
- Need data to help determine potential changes
- Need to integrate traffic systems across the city
- Revisit in spring
- Add Councilmember Anglin to work plan item
- Need to emphasize all modes of transit
- Include new traffic engineer in conversations (Cynthia Redinger)

Coal Tar Sealants

- Staff and Huron River Watershed Council interested in issue
- Several communities have banned
- Early research into this issue
- Concern with contractors, not as much of a focus with municipal operations

Green Procurement

- Through the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, City is working on developing a toolkit with other cities

Water

- Naud to set up a meeting with Commissioner Smith and Naud

Staff Update by Naud

- Exploring Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention grants for recycling initiatives
- Working on license agreement with DTE Energy at the Ann Arbor Airport for solar development
 - Phase 1 is between 1.1 and 1.6 megawatts

- Project with Recycle Ann Arbor to look at incentives for multi-family recycling
 - Working with student team to specifically look at issues for recycling in off-campus student housing

Idling Update by Commissioner Hollins

- Held a meeting with team
- Commissioner German to revise previously proposed ordinance to focus on commercial traffic
- Timeline is to bring this to commission in March

Planning Commission Update by Wendy Woods

- South Pond Village development discussion was tabled
- Proposal for City to acquire property for use as an “art park” in public hearing
- Street access discussion at Arborland

Energy Commission Update by Commissioner Appleyard

- Starting new committee to look at sustainable funding sources for energy and CAP work at the City
- Evaluate biodigester (also an environmental commission work plan item)
- Exploring options for community solar

Next Scheduled Meeting:

February 26, 2015

Public Commentary:

None

Adjournment:

Adjourned 8:33pm