



# 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, October 24, 2019

7:00 PM

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

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#### ROLL CALL

*Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.*

**Present:** 11 - Christopher L. Graham, Susan Hutton, Allison Skinner, Chip Smith, Karie Slavik, Mike Appel, Shannan Gibb-Randall, Anne Bannister, John Callewaert, Stephen C Brown, and John Mirsky

**Absent:** 2 - Robert Needham, and Jonathan Overpeck

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**A motion was made by Energy Commission Rep. Mirsky, seconded by Councilmember Smith, that the agenda be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**19-2075** Draft meeting minutes of the Sept 26, 2019 meeting of the Environmental Commission

**Attachments:** MINUTES 9-24-19 Env Comm.pdf

**A motion was made by Callewaert, seconded by Skinner, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council.**

#### PUBLIC COMMENTARY

*Multiple residents spoke in favor of the climate emergency resolution. One resident shared concerns about the Greenhouse Gas Inventories that were presented at the last meeting. Other residents spoke about how they support the Food Gatherers resolution before the Commission.*

#### Introduction of new staff members

*Eileen Naples is the new Resource Recovery Manager and started with the City on October 1st. Galen Hardy is the City's new Community Engagement Specialist and is happy to be with the City.*

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Materials Recovery Facility RFP (Cresson Sloten)**

*Staff Cresson Sloten gave a detailed overview of the two proposals the City received for interim recycling services. Commissioner Callewaert asked whether the kinds of recycling would change under either proposal. Staff replied that it would not. Commissioner Gibb-Randall asked how this proposal interacts with the possibility of joining the County regionalization effort. Commissioners asked for clarification about the financials of the proposals. Commissioner Mirsky commended staff for the process, and urged that the economic development impacts be considered, and that the City should assign full responsibility for the whole value stream to one entity which is a best practice in industry. He also expressed a regret that this RFP did not go out a year earlier. Commissioner Graham supported Commissioner Mirsky's comments and stated that he supports the option of processing recyclables locally. Chair Brown also supported vertical integration of the process stream and asked about how EmTerra is vertically integrated. He also expressed interest in the regional integration proposal. Commissioner Mirsky urged the Council to enter into the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority (WRRMA). Chair Brown urged staff to conduct a SWOT analysis when presenting to Council. [The video for this item runs between 41:36 and 1:21:11.]*

**19-2085** PowerPoint presentation about the MRF RFP Process

**Attachments:** Recyclables Processing RFP pptx.pdf

### **Climate Emergency Resolution**

*Chair Brown gave a summary of the Commission's work on this topic to date. Multiple Commissioners recommended that the public should become involved in the broader work of City Council that touches on climate. Commissioners also referenced the upcoming Climate Neutrality Summit on November 13. Commissioner Graham referenced a sample climate neutrality plan. Much of the discussion revolved around how difficult it will be to reach carbon neutrality, especially with a tight*

*deadline. Commissioner Graham offered an alternative resolution which was not seconded. Councilmember Smith committed to bringing the commission's climate emergency resolution passed in December 2018, albeit with an accelerated carbon neutrality target date of 2035 instead of 2040, to City Council for their consideration. [The video for this item runs between 1:21:11 and 2:02:37.]*

**19-2077** Ann Arbor Climate Emergency Resolution: Resolution Endorsing the Declaration of a Climate Emergency to Restore a Safe Climate (Dec 2018)

**Attachments:** A2ECresolution18-2081ClimateEmergency.pdf

**19-2067** Ann Arbor Climate Emergency: Resolution Endorsing the Declaration of a Climate Emergency to Restore a Safe Climate, File Status (2018)

**Attachments:** A2ECresolution18-2081ClimateEmergency\_disposition.pdf

**19-2068** Ann Arbor Climate Emergency Resolution - Resolution Endorsing the Declaration of a Climate Emergency to Restore a Safe Climate (Oct 2019)

## NEW BUSINESS

### Food Gatherers

*Executive Director Eileen Spring gave a presentation to Commission about the history, current operations, and impact of Food Gatherers on the Ann Arbor community. Councilmember Smith proposed an amendment to strike the four "Therefore be it resolved" clauses and replace them with a single new resolved clause. Commissioner Mirsky moved and Hutton seconded the amendment. Unanimous voice vote in support of the amendment. [The video for this item runs between 2:02:37 and 2:47:36.]*

**19-2070** Food Gatherers PowerPoint

**Attachments:** Food Gatherers Presentation.pdf

**19-2071** 25th Anniversary video - Food Gatherers

**Attachments:** 25th Anniversary video, clipped (1).mp4

[19-2072](#) Chapter 26 regulations

**Attachments:** Chapter 26 Regulations - 12-6-10.pdf

[19-2076](#) Plenty Newsletter - Summer 2019

**Attachments:** Plenty - Summer 2019 (3).pdf

[19-2078](#) Letter from Joe Ohren

**19-2074** Food Gatherers Resolution

**Attachments:** File Summary

**A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Chair C Brown, that the Resolution be Approved as amended by the Commission and Forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.**

**Heritage Trees Resolution (Natural Features Working Group)**

*Commissioner Graham presented a resolution proposed by the Natural Features Working Group to increase protections for heritage and culturally important trees.*

**19-2065** Resolution in Support of Expanding the City's Tree Protection to Include Heritage Trees

**Attachments:** Expanding Tree Protection to Heritage Trees\_Env Commission.pdf

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

**REPORTS FROM WORK GROUPS, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR**

*Solid Waste Working Group: Been working on metrics for solid waste and plan to have something for Commission at the next meeting.*

*Natural Features Working Group: Thanked the Commission for approving their heritage trees resolution. Will be working on protections for trees for projects zoned for single family homes and duplexes.*

*Water Working Group: They expect to have something for the next meeting.*

*Parks Commission: Nothing to report.*

*Energy Commission: They had a presentation from the Ann Arbor Public Schools on their upcoming bond proposal. The commission would have likely passed a resolution in support of the sustainability measures proposed in the bond spending plan but a quorum was not present.*

*Commissioner Mirsky noted that at present AAPS does not have a GHG inventory, targets, or objective measures of success. Residents need to continuously advocate that the AAPS actually spends bond funds allocated for sustainability on sustainability measures. The commission is working on updating their bylaws and making progress on their proposed ordinances.*

*Planning Commission: Passed a project on Washington that took advantage of new affordable housing premiums and will be installing solar.*

*City Council: Councilmember Bannister clarified that she voted "yes" on both budget proposals earlier this year. She thanked people that have been working on tree issues, especially at the project on Packard Ave. She also wanted to thank Janet Liebson and her niece Marie White who are big Food Gatherers volunteers who brought these issues to the table at a meeting in June.*

*Commissioner Appel asked for an update on the status of Ann Arbor's decision to enter into the Washtenaw County waste regionalization effort.*

*Councilmember Smith responded that it is pending completion of the Solid Waste Master Plan. He tried to bring it to Council for a reconsideration but was not successful in getting it on the agenda.*

*Commissioner Mirsky clarified that the Solid Waste Master Plan does not even deal with regionalization. Councilmember Bannister spoke about the union issue. Commissioner Appel said that staff wanted the regionalization vote, the Commission supported it unanimously, but there was not support at the Council. He questioned the lack of leadership by elected leaders. Chair Brown reported that it is only \$5,000 to join the regionalization efforts and that there would be time to address any future issues. The Chair encouraged Councilmembers to address their concerns directly with the County. Councilmember Bannister reiterated that the two dealbreakers are the concerns over losing union jobs and not having voting rights proportional to city size or waste generated.*

*Commissioner Mirsky stated that the City can negotiate these issues if the Authority decides to expand beyond its current charge and hire employees or make capital investments as well as leave the regional entity easily anytime in the future. Councilmember Bannister agreed to*

*find out about bringing the issue back to Council. Commissioner Hutton also encouraged talking to other regional entities. Commissioner Graham stated that he was surprised to see a proposal on the agenda to revive the City's Material Resource Facility. There was no report from Chair Brown.*

**REPORT FROM STAFF**

*Staff Drennen gave a report about the volunteer solar installation at Firestation 6. They had over 40 volunteers to install the 53 kW solar system. If people are interested in any future installs, they should contact Josh MacDonald. She spoke about the upcoming Climate Neutrality Summit to be held on November 13th at Cobblestone Farm, with the public welcome between 5:30-7. She also invited the public to a free showing of the movie "From Paris to Pittsburgh" on November 12th at 6pm at the Michigan Theater. Staff is also working on coordinating events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day which was held in Ann Arbor. Commissioner Mirsky added that current plans are for March 10-14, 2020 at Hill Auditorium.*

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

*Pesticide and herbicide resolution and presentation  
Cresson's second presentation about the MRF RFP*

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

*Dec 5, 2019 at 7pm.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

*Ken Garber thanked the Commission for their service. He also spoke about the status of the climate emergency and its impact on youth specifically.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:12 pm.*

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

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