



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, January 23, 2020

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 7pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Christopher L. Graham, Allison Skinner, Robert Needham, Karie Slavik, Mike Appel, Anne Bannister, John Callewaert, Stephen C Brown, and John Mirsky

Absent: 4 - Susan Hutton, Chip Smith, Shannan Gibb-Randall, and Jonathan Overpeck

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Graham, seconded by Skinner, that the agenda be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[20-0128](#) Environmental Commission Minutes from 12-5-19

Attachments: Draft meeting minutes for the Dec 5, 2019 meeting of the Environmental Commission rev2.pdf

A motion was made by Callewaert, seconded by Skinner, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council by 2/18/2020. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Elizabeth Norrin urged the City to take a stand by prohibiting toxic pesticides and replace turf grass with native habitats.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

20-0160 Resolution Urging the City to Compile and Disseminate Educational and Outreach Materials about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Best Practices and Turf Grass Reduction Strategies to Owners of Turf-grass Areas within the City

[The video for this item runs between 9:40-1:04:30.]

A motion was made by Councilmember Bannister, seconded by Slavik, that the Resolution be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council. Amendments were offered and approved from Commissioners Needham, Mirsky, and Graham. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried. Commissioner Appel abstained for the amendments and for the final resolution.

NEW BUSINESS**Work Group Goals for 2020**

Commissioners discussed Work Group goals for 2020. Chair Brown shared eight goals that have been developed for the Solid Waste Working Group. Commissioner Graham spoke about the five goals that the Natural Features Working Group have set for themselves for this year. Water Working Group's goals for 2020 will be shared at the next meeting. Commissioner Slavik asked that the Pollinator Working Group be reconstituted. They will bring their goals for 2020 to the next meeting.

Environmental Commission Goals for 2020

Chair Brown discussed how the Working Group goals for 2020 will constitute the Commission's Work Plan. Working Group Chairs have until the next meeting to submit draft goals for 2020 which will be compiled into a document for Council by Chair Brown.

Metrics

Commissioner Mirsky reminded people that the Commission discussed metrics at the February meeting last year and that the Commission did not review any Environmental Commission-specific metrics from that time until now. He recommended that the Commission develop an "Accomplishments Report" on an annual basis. Chair Brown suggested that the February meeting be centered on metrics. Commissioner Mirsky offered to write the Accomplishments Report with help from others.

Commissioner Skinner stated that the Commission should receive solid waste updates from staff on a quarterly or annual basis. A discussion was held about the use of the Sustainability Framework regarding metrics. Commissioner Mirsky agreed to re-distribute the report from the joint Energy and Environmental Working Group on metrics.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR

No reports were given from the Parks or Planning Commissions. Energy: City is working with Pittsfield Township and DTE for a solar installation on the closed landfill. Resolution passed to support \$90,000 for consultants for that project. The solar access ordinance is on hold. The EV Readiness Ordinance will be heard by the Planning Commission in April. They also discussed an ordinance banning natural gas hookups in new construction proposed by a local group. Eighty-eight permits for almost 900kW solar were applied for in 2019 which is almost a 3x increase over previous years.

City Council: Councilmember Bannister shared that Council approved the resolution to add two new Youth members for the Environmental Commission. Council amended the age range from a minimum of 14 to a minimum of 16 years old. The Food Gatherers resolution has been slowed down due to legal issues. The trees at 2857 Packard have not yet been cut down. Adding affordable housing at that location was not approved for a low income tax credit due to walkability issues. Malletts Creek is ranked very low in quality and it is not clear what losing eight acres of forest will do to it.

No Chair report.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Staff Emily Drennen gave a report about A2Zero events and news. She shared that there have been over 30 events held so far along with A2Zero Partner Organizations, with another 5 in the next week. Office of Sustainability and Innovations staff has met with the Fire Department Management Team, Safety Unit, Clerks Office, and the Attorney's Office, with an upcoming meeting with the IT Department.

She also shared that the four Technical Advisory Committees have all met to prioritize actions that were identified in the ideation phase. New Partner Organizations include: Common Cycle, Ann Arbor Main Street Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, Earth Sciences, Pesticide-Free Ann Arbor, and Slow Food Huron. Staff has wrapped up the first public engagement survey, quantified data, and included information in Technical Advisory Committee evaluations. The second public engagement survey has launched, which can be found on

a2zero.org, and focuses on gathering input on what potential actions the public supports, as well as funding mechanisms. She encouraged Commissioners and the public to plan to attend the upcoming Town Hall on February 22nd at Pioneer High School from 12 – 5 pm. Staff has also created materials to help with engagement, including a meeting in a box for residents to gather feedback and fact sheets. Lastly, she shared that the Sustainability Forums will be about the A2Zero goal with the first one on energy scheduled for Thursday, January 30th at 7 pm at the Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch. The following Forums will cover carbon neutrality in the transportation sector, resource sector, and the adaptation and resilience sector.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Metrics, 2020 goals, and an Accomplishments Report for the February meeting. March: Huron River Watershed to go over watershed quality. Air quality will also be reviewed at the March meeting.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2020 at 7pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Eddie Smith thanked the Commission for their dedication and ethics. He also said that the Commission should not have discussed topics that were not appropriate to vote on.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.

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

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