

# **City of Ann Arbor**

*301 E. Huron St.*

*Ann Arbor, MI 48104*

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## **Formal Minutes**

**Thursday, August 24, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

**Electronic Meeting**

**Environmental Commission**

**CALL TO ORDER****LAND HERITAGE STATEMENT**

*I acknowledge that the land the City of Ann Arbor occupies is the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabeg (including Odawa, Ojibwe, and Bodewadmi) and Wyandot peoples. I further acknowledge that our City stands, like almost all property in the United States, on lands obtained, generally in unconscionable ways, from indigenous peoples. The taking of this land was formalized by the Treaty of Detroit in 1807. Knowing where we live, work, study, and recreate does not change the past, but a thorough understanding of the ongoing consequences of this past can empower us in our work to create a future that supports human flourishing and justice for all individuals.*

**ROLL CALL**

*Commissioner Weyhing joined at 7:20pm; Commissioner Graham joined at 8:18pm.*

**Present:** 12 - Lisa Disch, Christopher L. Graham, John Callewaert, Stephen C Brown, John Mirsky, Rita Mitchell, Shannan Gibb-Randall, Bridget Gruber, Dharma Akmon, Maisie Weyhing, Anya Dale, and Brooks Curtis

**Absent:** 2 - Anne Marsan, and Sara Nedrich

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

[23-1277](#) Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes 05.25.2023

**The meeting minutes from 05.25.23 were unanimously approved as presented and forwarded to City Council.**

[23-1278](#) Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes 06.22.2023

**The meeting minutes from 06.22.23 were unanimously approved as presented and forwarded to City Council.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

*Caller from Ward 1 provided comment in support of changes to ordinances regulating height of native plants in lawn extensions.*

**NEW BUSINESS****23-1413** Overview of Environmental Services Manager Role

*Brian Steglitz, Public Services Area Administrator, provided an overview of the role of the new Environmental Services Manager position, which is currently being hired for.*

**23-1280** Annual Review of Environmental Commission Bylaws

*Commissioners discussed the existing bylaws and suggested potential changes; Chairperson Mitchell and Commissioner Curtis will work to craft a redlined version of the bylaws using these suggestions.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS****23-1281** Environmental Commission 2023-2024 Working Groups

*Commissioners discussed the existing working groups and decided on the creation of a new Biodiversity Working Group; membership of each working group was determined.*

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR**

*Circular Economy Working Group – Commissioner Callewaert reported out.*

*Pollinators Working Group – Chairperson Mitchell and Staff Liaison Sean Reynolds reported out.*

*Water Quality Working Group – Vice-Chairperson Brown reported out.*

*Natural Features Working Group – Commissioner Graham reported out.*

*Planning Commission – No updates from Councilmember Disch.*

*Energy Commission – Commissioner Mirsky reported out.*

*Parks Advisory Commission – No updates from Commissioner Marsan.*

*Transportation Commission – Councilmember Akmon reported out.*

*Council Report – Councilmember Akmon reported out.*

*Chairperson Report – Chairperson Mitchell reported out.*

**REPORT FROM STAFF**

[23-1401](#) Staff Updates for the Environmental Commission, August 2023

*Staff liaison Sean Reynolds reported out.*

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

*Potential agenda items include a presentation from Perpetual and ZeroWaste.Org.*

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

*The next scheduled meeting will be on September 28th, 2023 at 7:00pm.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

*No callers for public commentary.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm.*

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**City Clerk's Office  
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Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

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