



City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Meeting Minutes

Energy Commission

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

6:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Appleyard called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM

Present: 8 - Charles Hookham, Brigit Macomber, Mike Shriberg, Mark Clevey, Stephen Raiman, Wayne Appleyard, Noah Levin, and Chip Smith

Absent: 3 - Kim Wolske, Shoshannah Lenski, and Kenneth J. Wadland

ROLL CALL

Present: 8 - Charles Hookham, Brigit Macomber, Mike Shriberg, Mark Clevey, Stephen Raiman, Wayne Appleyard, Noah Levin, and Chip Smith

Absent: 3 - Kim Wolske, Shoshannah Lenski, and Kenneth J. Wadland

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Appleyard's motion to approve the February meeting minutes was moved by Shriberg and seconded by Clevey, and approved unanimously.

16-0523

Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Ann Arbor Energy Commission Meeting

Attachments: Energy Commission Minutes 2-9-16.pdf

Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council due back on 6/20/2016

PUBLIC INPUT

No public comment.

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Geisler: The 4th Sustainability Forum of 2016, "Look to the future," had close to 70 people in attendance. This last forum marks the 5th year and 20th forum.

The City is currently attempting to gather a total count of current attendees and total video views to date.

Earth Day at Leslie Center, 17 April from 12-4pm

Solar workshop at the district library on April 19th, 2016

Solar Ypsi on April 23rd from 10am-12pm, including information about installation and solar economics. More information at solar.ypsi.com/events
Michigan energy conference and exhibition: DTE and the Engineering Society of Detroit will be held on May 3rd in Novi. This is the 19th year, with more information at ww.esd.org.

Michigan renewable energy fair on June 24 and 25 with information at grea.org

McNaughton-McKay electric: Solar and lighting seminar April 26 from 9am-12pm at 4670 Runway Blvd in Ann Arbor, with information on solar market and product updates. RSVP at deplaned@mc-mc.com

Commissioner Hookham shared an event concerning an open house at Lincoln High school occurring from 6-7 pm on a 50MW, 200 acre solar farm proposed project.

Commissioner Shriberg: 5 different local governments have passed resolutions opposing a Mackinaw an oil pipeline. This is something that Ann Arbor should look into. Most opposition has occurred in northern municipalities, but some counties in the area like Ingham and Genessee County have also opposed the pipeline.

Commissioner Appleyard included information about a pipeline that was put into the St Clair River from 1918, which people are concerned about. Shriberg added that they want to run crude oil along with natural gas in the pipeline

Commissioner Appleyard: The US broke the record of installed solar with 7,286 MGW in 2015 of solar voltaic and the solar market grew by 66%, while the residential solar market now represents 29% of the solar market.

Connector Project Update - Eli Cooper

Eli Cooper, City Transportation Program Manager, presented information on the Connector light rail plan and covered the following information:

Type of transit: The project team explored using a greater number of buses, rapid transit buses, and light rail to meet growing demand for public transit. They concluded that light rail would be able to serve the most people given future projections as opposed to other forms of transit. Informal surveys also showed that light rail was the most popular option among the three options studied. They are currently considering a smaller scale M1 (in Detroit) option, which is 2/3 the size of a normal scale light rail, to fit in with Ann Arbor's scale. Timeline: Planning started in 2006 while projections show the earliest revenue service is still 6 years out.

Corridor: they used potential ridership and financial feasibility, and gauged citizen preferences in choosing a corridor. They settled on a corridor that would use existing infrastructure and would go from Plymouth Road in the Northeast side to Briarwood in the south side (a path that 41 busses currently serve). 1/3 of homes were within walking distance of the corridor chosen and one half of all jobs were located within that corridor as well. They are planning on using existing infrastructure with potential for elevation or tunnels, if needed, on certain points of the corridor.

Cost: estimated \$400-800 million for capital costs, while operating costs ranged from 5-21 million; the higher number includes transit operators for buses as well. The total cost would be paid for through a combination of federal, state, university and municipal funds. They are considering building the light rail in two phases. The first phase is estimated to run from Plymouth to downtown.

The second phase would run from downtown to Briarwood mall.

The following questions were brought up during the presentation
Commissioner Shriberg asked why the light transit hadn't been built along the Washtenaw corridor given the demand. Eli Cooper responded that Washtenaw was an immediate problem and as such, was addressed by more immediate solutions. Eli remarked that there was a possibility that the light rail would expand to the Washtenaw corridor later on.

Commissioner Clevey asked how they planned to power the light transit rail and if the current operating estimates included the energy component. Eli Cooper answered that they were currently looking into powering the light rail with hydroelectric dams, but that the current estimates only include existing electrical sources.

Commissioner Levin asked how many riders would be University of Michigan students. Eli Cooper answered that about 75% of ridership is projected to be students.

Commissioner Shriberg asked about the assumptions taken in projected future ridership. Eli Cooper answered that there would be circulator routes that would bring buses to the light rail.

Commissioner Macomber noted that the outlined route on the north would mostly serve University of Michigan students and was not as accessible to neighborhoods in the north side. Eli responded that you try to get density for federal funding and the ridership lies along the corridor, discussed above. He also noted that running the route through the neighborhoods would have greater community and environmental impact, while the circulators could be used to access light rail.

Commissioner Hookham asked if there would be an 8% increase in ridership fees. Eli Cooper answered that there has not been a revenue projection on ridership but that most likely there will be an increment in fare to offset costs.

Commissioner Appleyard asked if the light rail would be connected to the new train station. Eli Cooper answered that the two projects have independent utility but that the light rail would have sufficient capacity to move people from the train station.

Energy Challenge 2015 Goals

Geisler addressed some of the ongoing efforts undertaken by the City to achieve the 2015 energy challenge goals and reported on progress:

On the municipal side of the energy challenge, the city set up a target of a 30% in green energy and a 50% GHG offset from the 2000 baseline. The actuals were a 19-20% share of total usage from green MMBTUs and a 30% GHG offset from the year 2000 baseline.

On the community side of the energy challenge, the City is currently looking at preferred protocols and reporting systems since the goals were made but it appears the renewable portfolio standard will meet the target.

Community-scale goal was 8% GHG reduction and 5% green energy.

Possible activities to produce 20,000 MWh of green electricity to help reach the original targets, include:

- o Airport Solar 2,500 MWh/Year
- o Landfill Solar 12,500 MWh/Year
- o Biodigester ~8,000 MWh/Year
- o Wind (or renewable utility tariff) 20,000 MWh/year

The following questions were brought up during the presentation:

Commissioner Shriberg asked about declining methane from landfill. Geisler noted that there were two generators that shifted to one as gas production declined, but the city is currently working with ARIA with improvements on the blower system, improvements that should extend the power generated.

Commissioner Raiman wanted to clarify what was considered green energy in the study and if it included nuclear energy. Geisler responded that it includes renewable generation as defined by the renewable portfolio standard and did not include nuclear. Transportation and other areas, however, were also included in the study. Commissioner Clevey remarked that he would like to see at least a footnote about nuclear.

Commissioner Clevey asked a question about where the wind farms were located. Geisler responded that the city could participate in a 2 to 3 cents premium for a future wind project that DTE would build if a tariff option of this sort is created by the utility.

Commissioner Hookham asked if anything formal had been presented since the climate action plan. Geisler responded that there was an update to City Council in January of this year but that the hope was for an annual update/dashboard.

Commissioner Clevey asked if there were metrics for the community and if there was any one-stop shops that would have information on choice providers. Geisler responded that we had numbers from DTE but that there were problems with collecting choice gas info the utility may not have. The State Public Service Commission might be the only place that it would be reported but we are hoping to get more accurate information or at least accurate measurements.

Commissioner Clevey asked if there was a need for an energy efficiency task force. Commissioner Appleyard voiced an interest in concentrating efforts in programs to enact energy efficiency instead of spending time understanding it further.

Commissioner Clevey asked if we were going to reach the 2025 goals for energy efficiency. Geisler referenced Architecture 2030 Districts as a way to retrofit previous construction and improve new construction to a high standard. Commissioner Appleyard and Hookham explained that while the City is making progress, it is hard to move the needle on the community side since the City doesn't own its own utility. Commissioner Clevey countered that if we are not meeting the targets through efficiencies, we will have to invest more heavily on the renewable energy side.

Commissioner Raiman expressed skepticism that we would reach our goal with 2.5 MW per year, or 20% of the goal, which he remarked was already ambitious and 80% of the goal through efficiencies. Commissioner Appleyard argued that as the technology becomes more prevalent and prices drop, it will be easier to implement. Commissioner Raiman argued that this only happens in nations with lower penetration. With countries that have higher penetration, the relationship turns logarithmic and even asymptotic around 30% penetration. Commissioner Raiman explained that this was due to lost solar energy as a result of no storage abilities.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Climate Action Plan

Geisler explained that the Climate Partnership working group got a presentation on land use and access, which touched on transportation information pertaining to non-motorized facilities and approaching millages.

The work group is currently discussing on where to put the information. The ecology center is populating a website on the information called "Way 2 Go."

Community Solar

Commissioner Clevey explained some of the support documentation to back up the solar readiness resolution, which will be entertained by City Council, for working towards a solarized community. Commissioner Smith said that the City Administrator is currently doing some of the financial legwork for the recommendations.

Nuclear

No update.

Sustainable Funding

No update.

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Commissioner Shriberg offered the oil pipeline resolution brought up in the beginning of the meeting as a possibility and that he would draft
Commissioner Smith wanted an update on the energy efficiency improvements for rental programs with possible PACE activity, since rental stock is 50% and is the least efficient sector. Commissioner Clevey wondered if we could look at other places with similar situations. Geisler explained that there was a town/gown group within the USDN sustainability network that dealt with the "rent rocket tool," a crowd sourcing of consumption data from renters. Geisler argued the main issue is split incentive of renters/landlords on who pays for bills, both for behaviors and in driving energy upgrades. Commissioner Clevey argued that landlords still pay property taxes and general taxes, so this might be the time to intervene and incentivize.
Commissioner Shriberg asked for an update on the community bulk buy effort (solar/EVs).

ADJOURNMENT

Appleyard adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Visit www.a2energy.org for community energy information in Ann Arbor,
or
www.a2gov.org/energy to learn more about the City's Energy Programs

Regular meetings shown Live and replayed on CTN Channel 16 and at
www.a2gov.org/ctn