

City of Ann Arbor

100 N. Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Action Minutes

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

4:30 PM

County Building, 220 N. Main St.

Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Rubin called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. in the County Board of Commissioners Meeting Room, 220 S. Main Street.

ROLL CALL

Present 7 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Jennifer Santi Hall, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, Carsten Hohnke, and Catherine Riseng
Absent 2 - Michael Garfield, and Gilbert S. Omenn

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Mike Moran, Ann Arbor Township Supervisor addressed the Commission regarding support of the purchase of easement for the Kathy and Charles Braun Purchase of Development Rights. He said that Ann Arbor Township is willing to partner with the Greenbelt Advisory Commission and willing to help in any way possible.

(Commissioner Garfield arrived at 4:41 p.m.)

Present 8 - Tom Bloomer, Dan Ezekiel, Michael Garfield, Jennifer Santi Hall, Commissioner Laura Rubin, Peter Allen, Carsten Hohnke, and Catherine Riseng
Absent 1 - Gilbert S. Omenn

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Riseng, seconded by Commissioner Santi Hall, that the Agendabe approved with the following change:

Move: Closed Session (Consider before New Business)

On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Greenbelt Minutes from February 10, 2010

Minutes not available.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION AND LAND ACQUISITION

A motion was made by Commissioner Bloomer, seconded by Commissioner Allen, that that the Commission enter into closed session to discuss attorney/client privileged communication and land acquisition. On roll call, the vote was as follows, with the Chair declaring the motion carried. The meeting recessed at 4:45 p.m.:

Yeas: 8 - Commissioner Bloomer, Commissioner Ezekiel, Commissioner Garfield, Commissioner Santi Hall, Commissioner Rubin, Commissioner Allen, Councilmember Hohnke, and Commissioner Riseng

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Omenn

MEETING RECONVENED

(Commissioner Allen left at this time.)

A motion was made by Commissioner Riseng, seconded by Commissioner Hohnke, that the meeting reconvene. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 6:04 p.m.

Braun and Gould PDR

Commissioner Rubin announced that in Closed session, the Commission received attorney/client privileged communication regarding two properties in Ann Arbor Township. The Commission spend considerable time reviewing the decisions that were made approximately two years ago, the high quality scoring and nature of those properties and the scores. They reviewed the decisions at that time and are now looking at a resolution that would review the outcomes of those discussions.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hohnke, seconded by Commissioner Bloomer, that the Greenbelt Advisory Commission wishes to express its continued support of the acquisition of the Braun and Gould properties development rights in compliance with FRPP requirements in partnership with the Ann Arbor Township and the property owners. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Staff Updates

Ginny Trocchio said that she had hoped to receive information about their Federal Grants, but still have no word on the FRPP grants that were submitted in February for the properties in Webster and Northfield Townships. She did expect to hear something soon and would report back the findings at a later date. A resolution would then be forwarded to City Council for their consideration.

Ms. Trocchio said she participated in a discussion panel with the Michigan Organic Food and Farming Alliance which consists of a group of young farmers who were looking for land to farm and seemed very excited about the Greenbelt program.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None presented.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

None.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

SMALL FARMS SUB-COMMITTEE

Commissioner Ezekiel said that the Small Farms Sub-Committee met March 4, 2010 and discussed easement language and how it would change in regards to small farmers while not having to worry about the Fed requirements. They also had a discussion about impervious surfaces and including a certain number of temporary impervious surfaces like hoop houses and what would be a reasonable percentage of hoop house properties to have in order to meet small farmers needs as well as the needs of Ann Arbor residents. They also talked about water needs and drainage. It was nice to have a variety of different stake holders there and it gave other people a chance to get familiarized with ideas that have been floating around regarding the Greenbelt's easement.

He added that Ann Arbor Township has been doing similar work and it was good to have a meeting of the minds to see what they were talking about and doing as well. They talked about whether having "farm police" or not and have very strict standards in the easement that are monitored closely or is it a more general idea and would there be a need for general reports. Everyone agreed that there needs to be a business plan going in.

The Sub-Committee also talked about purchasing development rights on a small parcel where there would be a small farm, the farm failing and what the disposition of the property would be afterwards. Affordable housing was discussed and a small farmer had an idea that he want to have housing where an apprentice farmers or beginner farmers could live and how that would look. A lot of progress was made, people had an opportunity to hear with other people were thinking about and how far they have gotten.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Hohnke, seconded by Commissioner Ezekiel, that the be Adjourn. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Laura Rubin, Chairperson

Anissa R. Bowden
Recording Secretary