



City of Ann Arbor
Formal Minutes - Draft
Environmental Commission

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
[http://a2gov.legistar.com/
Calendar.aspx](http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)

Thursday, July 22, 2021

7:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

**This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and
online at a2gov.org/watchCTN**

**To speak at public comment call 206-337-9723 or 213-338-8477 or Toll Free 877-853-5247
or 888-788-0099 meeting ID: 978 7334 3910**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

LAND HERITAGE STATEMENT

ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Christopher L. Graham, Lisa Disch, Kathy Griswold, John Callewaert, Stephen C Brown, Rita Mitchell, Chris Vanden Broek, Lunia Oriol, and Yongwen Zheng

Absent: 3 - Robert Needham, Shannan Gibb-Randall, and John Mirsky

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Approved unanimously after amended to include Discussion of A2zero
under NEW BUSINESS*

Approved with changes

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

No one for Public Commentary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

21-1387

Attachments: FormalMinutes27-May-2021-03-04-47.pdf

(May 27, 2021) was approved after addition of "Judge Connor ordered Gelman to implement 4th Consent Judgment" was added to COUNCIL report.

Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council due back on 7/27/2021

21-1389

Attachments: Formal Minutes June 24th 2021.pdf

(June 24, 2021) was approved after spelling correction of Yongwen Zheng's name

Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council due back on 7/27/2021

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion of Work Group of Chapter 40

Vice Chairperson Rita Mitchell called for Commission volunteers to join Council Member Kathy Griswold and herself to continue working on amendments to Title III, Chapter 40 of the City's Code to allow more native plant landscaping and reduction of turf grass.

Gelman Report

Vice Chairperson Rita Mitchell directed attention to a Detroit Free Press investigative report on the history and current status of the Gelman 1,4-dioxane groundwater plume, and the failures to confront it over decades. It can be found here, behind the paywall:

[https://www.freep.com/restricted/?](https://www.freep.com/restricted/?return=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.freep.com%2Fin-depth%2Fnews%2Flocal%2Fmichigan%2F2021%2F07%2F21%2Fmichigans-groundwater-problem-gelman-dioxane-plume-persists-ann-arbor%2F7845325002%2F%3Fbuild%3Dnative-web_i_p)

[return=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.freep.com%2Fin-depth%2Fnews%2Flocal%2Fmichigan%2F2021%2F07%2F21%2Fmichigans-groundwater-problem-gelman-dioxane-plume-persists-ann-arbor%2F7845325002%2F%3Fbuild%3Dnative-web_i_p](https://www.freep.com%2Fin-depth%2Fnews%2Flocal%2Fmichigan%2F2021%2F07%2F21%2Fmichigans-groundwater-problem-gelman-dioxane-plume-persists-ann-arbor%2F7845325002%2F%3Fbuild%3Dnative-web_i_p)

Council Member Kathy Griswold reported that Ann Arbor City Council will have a Working Session soon to discuss a proposal to connect the City's drinking water supply to the Detroit Great Lakes Water Association (GLWA), which intakes water from Lake Huron and is relatively free of threats from PFAS and 1,4-dioxane.

References for the City of Ann Arbor Water Department Gelman Plume update:

1) Second quarter 2021, April-June:

<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/water-treatment/Documents/2nd%20Quarter%20Gelman%20Plume%20Update07022021.pdf>

2) Gelman 1,4-Dioxane Litigation page of the Water Treatment section of the city website.

<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/water-treatment/Pages/Gelman-1,4-Dioxane-Litigation.aspx>

Note: The litigation site is slightly outdated and the EPA section is under litigation.

NEW BUSINESS**Discussion of format of minutes and action points discussion**

Council Member Kathy Griswold called for a time stamp in the minutes pointing to the CTN video recording, for easier referral to meeting content. Chair Brown will investigate use of time stamps connected with the meeting video. Full discussion deferred to September meeting.

City of Ann Arbor's Contribution to Phosphorus

21-1374

Attachments: Phosphorus in the Huron River.pdf

Phosphorus in the Huron River.pdf, a brief overview to facilitate discussion provided by Chair Person Stephen Brown, with suggestion to invite presentations by Rick Lawson of Huron River Watershed Council; Earl Kenzie, Manager, Ann Arbor Wastewater Treatment; and Professor John Lehman (<http://websites.umich.edu/~hrstudy/lehman.htm>) , University of Michigan Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology for a future discussion by the Environmental Commission.

Council Member Kathy Griswold suggested that the Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, who has expressed interest in addressing phosphorus runoff, and City Attorney Kevin McDonald be invited to discuss the legal landscape around phosphorus due to their prior exposure to work on the issue.

Commissioner Christopher Graham suggested converting more lawn and yard area from turf grass to more plantings that allow absorption of storm water.

Chairperson Stephen Brown proposed a future meeting on the topic of phosphorus.

Chapter 55 Resolution to Amend Outdoor Lighting**21-1497**

Attachments: Lighting Ordinance.pdf

21-1360

Attachments: Outdoor Lighting Planning Staff Report

Brief presentation by UM Professor Sally Oey, to facilitate Q&A.

21-1361 Environmental and Energy Commissions Resolution to Endorse Implementation of an Amendment to the Uniform Development Code Section 5.25, Outdoor Lighting, to Reduce the Effects of Light Pollution

Attachments: Resolution Endorsing Amended-Enhanced OutdoorLighting.pdf

Commissioner Christopher Graham raised a question about enforcement. Prof. Sally Oey responded that education will likely be the lead effort to support changes, as well as use of the city's See Click Fix system. Issues of excess light from businesses, street lights, and University. The ordinance will apply to private homes and businesses. Greatest effect of the ordinance is likely to be related to businesses.

Reference for the Commission and the Public:

<https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/darkskies/>

Passed unanimously and forwarded to Council.

**Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council
due back on 7/27/2021**

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR

Natural Features: Final editing of text, charts, and graphics for several DRAFT ordinance changes

Pollinators WG: Developing Educational materials for large landowners and houses of worship

Zero Waste WG: Policy committee has drafted a Resolution requesting Council to affirm Zero Waste goals, as part of Strategy 5 of the A2ZERO plan. Commissioners Disch and Callewaert wrote and submitted a NEXTCYCLE grant proposal for OSI to hire an intern to collect metrics.

Construction and Demolition Ordinance WG: no update

Energy Commission: Chairperson Stephen Brown read Commissioner John Mirsky's written update, in his absence. On July 13, the Commission considered three Resolutions: 1) The case for a Municipal Utility was presented by the Ann Arbor for Public Power citizen's group. A Commission resolution was introduced (first reading) to formally request Council to fund a feasibility Study costing ~\$120k; 2) Second reading of a Resolution to support an Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure Ordinance affecting commercial and multi-family residential properties. Passed unanimously and sent to Council, along with a similar one applying to Single-family residential; 3) Resolution to Promote and Support low-carbon materials in Construction, passed unanimously and forwarded to Council. A millage proposal to support A2ZERO goals is being considered by the Mayor and Council.

Planning Commission: No update

Parks Advisory Commission: No update

Council: A2ZERO Action 6, adding sensors to ????. Jen Lawson investigating Orchard Hills Drive flooding-this neighborhood was built in the 1980's without storm management infrastructure. Commissioner Graham noted that older studies need to be compared to the new resolutions.

Chairperson Update: Need volunteers for the Environmental Commission Table at the October 1 Green Fair.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Staff Report nothing to report

ACTION POINTS REVIEW

Galen Hardy: will verify that all Commissioners have been added to the official Environmental Commission e-mail distribution list

Galen Hardy will include hyperlink to the FREEP article on the Gelman Plume in the minutes

Chairperson Stephen Brown will Draft and send a survey to all Commissioners by August 10

Professor Sally Oey will share her slide deck with the Commissioners

Vice Chairperson Rita Mitchell will send Commission volunteers a request for work group participation on City Ordinance Chapter 40 Trees and Other Vegetation

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Will be a working session. Vice Chairperson Rita Mitchell will provide updates on Chapter 40 Ordinance revisions

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:24pm

All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:

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

Requests made with less than two business days' notice may not be able to be accommodated.