

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>



Formal Minutes

Thursday, March 23, 2023

7:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

Environmental Commission

CALL TO ORDER

LAND HERITAGE STATEMENT

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Dale and Gruber joined the meeting at 7:05pm.

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

Absent: 3 - Lunia Oriol, Anne Marsan, and Maisie Weyhing

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved unanimously

Approved as presented

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

23-0500 Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes 03/10/2023

Approved unanimously

Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council due back on 4/3/2023

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Caller last name Murphy spoke in support of a natural gas ban.

Caller last name Kahn spoke in opposition to development at 415 W Washington.

Caller last name DiMoore spoke in support of a natural gas ban, in opposition to development on floodplains, and in support of stronger natural features protections.

Caller last name Caruso spoke in opposition to development in floodplains.

Caller last name Stalwart spoke in support of a natural gas ban, called for carbon impact statements when approving projects, and spoke in opposition to development in floodplains.

Caller last name McKenzie spoke in opposition to development at 415 W Washington.

Caller last name Caruso spoke in opposition to development at 415 W Washington.

Caller last name Brower spoke in support of the pollinator resolution and called for additional recommendations regarding yard cleanup, spoke in support of a natural gas ban, and spoke in opposition to development in floodplains and asked for clarification around flood insurance rates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

23-0471 Discussion on Risks and Management of New and Existing Construction in Flood Plain Areas

Jerry Hancock, Stormwater and Floodplain Coordinator, provided an overview of flood plain management; Commissioners discussed with Jerry the risks and management of construction in flood plain areas.

23-0499 Resolution in support of accelerated action on an ordinance to ban natural gas connections in new construction and major renovations and in support of devising and implementing interim measures to incentivize all-electric construction

The draft resolution was brought before the Commission by Rita Mitchell and John Mirsky; Chris Graham moved for a discussion and Rita Mitchell seconded; Commissioners discussed the draft resolution; the resolution was tabled and will be up for a second reading at the April meeting.

Tabled

23-0473 Resolution to Support Pollinator Habitat in Ann Arbor

The draft resolution was brought before the Commission by Rita Mitchell; John Mirsky moved for amendments to the resolution to be considered and Brooks Curtis seconded; Commissioners discussed and suggested amendments; John Mirsky moved for the resolution to be put to a vote as amended and Bridget Gruber seconded; the resolution was unanimously approved as amended.

Approved as amended by the Commission and Forwarded to the City Council due back on 4/3/2023

23-0472 Discussion of Environmental Commission Policy Recommendations for 2024

Commissioners discussed the proposed policy recommendations put forth by the working groups; discussion was tabled until a later meeting.

Tabled

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR

Zero Waste Working Group – Commissioner Callewaert reported out.

Pollinators Working Group – No updates from Vice-chairperson Mitchell.

Water Quality Working Group – No updates from Chairperson Brown.

Natural Features Working Group – Commissioner Graham reported out.

Planning Commission – Commissioner Gibb-Randall reported out.

Energy Commission – Commissioner Mirsky reported out.

Parks Advisory Commission – No updates from Commissioner Marsan.

Transportation Commission – Councilmember Akmon reported out.

Council Report – Councilmembers Disch and Akmon reported out.

Chairperson Report – No updates from Chairperson Brown.

REPORT FROM STAFF

23-0533 Staff Updates for Environmental Commission, March 2023

Staff liaison Sean Reynolds reported out.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Solid waste staff will present recent program updates and Commissioners will discuss the Solid Waste budget with staff.

The resolution in support of accelerated action on an ordinance to ban natural gas connections in new construction and major renovations and in support of devising and implementing interim measures to incentivize all-electric construction will be brought to a second reading.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be on April 27th, 2023 at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Caller last name Kahn called for a resolution banning new construction on floodplains and called for expedient action on pollutant cleanup

efforts.

Caller last name McKenzie called for expedient action on pollutant cleanup efforts from the City and called for a resolution banning new construction on floodplains.

Caller last name Brower spoke in support of the expedient passing of a natural gas ban and called for a resolution banning new construction on floodplains.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14pm.

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.