

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

6:00 PM

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

Energy Commission

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Clevey called the meeting to order 6 PM

ROLL CALL

Present: 10 - Charles Hookham, Mike Shriberg, Mark Clevey, Shoshannah Lenski, Noah Levin, John Mirsky, Sarah Paleg, Carlene Colvin-Garcia, Charlotte Jameson, and Jack Eaton

Absent: 2 - Brigit Macomber, and Wayne Appleyard

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Lenski and seconded by Commissioner Mirsky that the agenda be approved. On a voice vote, Commissioner Clevey declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Mirsky and seconded by Commissioner Levin that the minutes be approved. On a voice vote, Commissioner Clevey declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input.

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS

Staff informed the commission about the start of the sustainability forums. The first is January 11th at the downtown library. Electric vehicles will be the first topic followed by measuring sustainability in February 8th, civic engagement on March 8th and the topic of water in the City on April 12th. The emcee for the electric vehicle forum will be Charles Griffith, the director of climate and energy at the Ecology Center. The panelists will also include Bruce Westlake from Michigan Electric Auto Association, and Andrew Renz principal marketing from DTE. Alex Keros with GM's Maven group will also present, along with Terry Richards who is the sustainability manager at Mehindra/GenZe. There will be electric vehicles on hand before the event for those interested.

Staff also informed the commission about upcoming solar installations at the Bryant Community Center, a result of DTE's Power Together competition. He also talked about the Green Fleets policy discussion that will be finalized at the next City Council meeting.

Commissioner Mirsky informed the Commissioners about the Environmental Commission. The Environmental Commission addressed solid waste at their meeting. They had staff present on the current state of affairs in terms of recycling. Staff presented a dramatic decrease in the unrestricted solid waste fund reserve balance; however, in a later meeting a correction was reported that indicated the drop-off isn't so steep so the City is likely to provide an update. Commissioner Mirsky talked about residuals and the fact that our current diversion metrics should take into consideration that 11% of diverted waste cannot be recycled. Currently diversion rates are at 46% which meets the goals set by the city, but by taking into consideration the residuals, that number is likely to drop. The City is also looking into staffing numbers. The commissioners discussed changes in state regulations for landfills and the possibility of having a county approach to waste management. There was also conversation amongst the commissioners about year-round waste composting that currently only takes place when yard waste is at its highest.

Council-Member Eaton discussed the Commission-driven solar program and lessons learned. The program is finalizing active jobs but winding down. There is interest amongst Commissioners to have a solar program in a different form taking the lessons learned from the pilot.

2018 Appointments: Chair, Vice Chair, Environmental Commission Rep

Commissioner Wayne Appleyard was elected Chair for another term and Commissioner Clevey was elected vice chair for another term (Motions for approval by Lenski, seconded by Mirsky).

John Mirsky was appointed the Environmental Commission liaison for another term, per a voice vote.

MI Large-scale Solar Project(s) Issues Overview - Commissioner Hookham

Commissioner Hookham presented on a solar array that he is currently working on in mid-Michigan. Commissioner Hookham has 35 years in the energy field and 25 years of experience in renewable

energy. His presentation focused on large scale >1MW arrays. He addressed the importance of economies of scale and how utilities are able to put up large arrays cheaper at this scale. He also noted the different types of solar arrays and the benefits of arrays that track with the sun. On the system he is working on, the motor that changes the angle of the panels is also powered by the sun. He compared the costs of different types of solar including residential, all of which have gone down in price. Soft costs are the only part of the cost that has not. He also brought up the increasing viability of batteries that reduce the intermittency of solar energy. Commissioner Hookham foresees solar having emerging benefits to highlight compared with wind energy.

The Commissioners discussed the need to have different types of solar options for different community needs. Amongst those options, arrays like the one presented by Commissioner Hookham and community solar arrays are both very viable options for the community.

Attachments: AAEC Large Scale Solar 010718.pptx

FY19 City Policy Agenda Input

Boards and commissions were asked to submit their policy input for a City Council committee assembling ideas for Lansing policy advocacy. Staff will share an online document of compiled policy issues from the previous year.

2018 Committees/Work Plan

Commissioners had signed on for topics that they were interested in working on. There was also talk amongst the commissioners of proposing new ordinances and updating others. Commissioner Mirsky had compiled a list of wins and losses for the Energy Commission during the previous year. Wins included: the City's commitment to 100% renewable energy, the County millage passing which will provide ~ \$900,000 per year for climate action for eight years, staff going to full time, and organizational structural changes for a new sustainability office.

PUBLIC INPUT

Steven Brown thanked Commissioner Hookham for the

presentation. He was interested in looking towards other states like Minnesota for our own policy recommendations to the State. Commissioner Mirsky said that the “Policy Agenda Input” section of the meeting addressed the potential for those types of conversations.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Staff Nate Geisler mentioned the bylaws updating for next meeting and Commissioner Colvin-Garcia brought up the potential for a presentation by the STEAM school group of students working on solar.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Clevey adjourned the meeting at 7:47 PM