



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes

Environmental Commission

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

Thursday, June 27, 2019

7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Needham called the meeting to order at 7pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: 10 - Christopher L. Graham, Susan Hutton, Allison Skinner, Robert Needham, Chip Smith, Shannan Gibb-Randall, Anne Bannister, John Callewaert, Stephen C Brown, and John Mirsky

Absent: 3 - Karie Slavik, Mike Appel, and Jonathan Overpeck

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Callewaert, seconded by C Brown, that the agenda be Approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

19-1287 Minutes from the April 25, 2019 Environmental Commission meeting

Attachments: Env Commission meeting minutes from April 25 2019.pdf

A motion was made by Callewaert, seconded by C Brown, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission with changes and forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Transportation Commissioner Kathy Griswold requested that Commission give input on the short-term and long-term environmental impacts from transportation projects.

Rita Mitchell gave support to the herbicide resolution and said that some plants need the use of herbicide controls.

COMMISSION ELECTIONS FOR A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Commissioner Graham nominated Commissioner Needham for Chair. Commissioner Needham declined. Commissioner Needham nominated Commissioner Brown for Chair. Commissioner Graham seconded that nomination. On a voice vote, Chair Needham declared that Commissioner Brown was elected Chair.

Councilmember Smith nominated Commissioner Callewaert to be Vice-Chair. Commissioner Callewaert declined. Commissioner Mirsky nominated Commissioner Hutton. On a voice vote, Chair Brown declared that Commissioner Hutton was elected to be Vice Chair.

SELECTION OF A COMMISSIONER TO REPRESENT AT THE TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN CAC

A motion was made by Mirsky, seconded by Callewaert, that Commissioner Graham be appointed. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

19-1288 Expansion of the Number of Environmental Commission Seats to Include Two New Seats for Youth Members

Staff Emily Drennen gave an introduction to the resolution urging City Council to approve two additional seats on the Commission to be filled by youth. This item was recommended by staff in the Office of Sustainability and Innovations. The Commissioners discussed the merits of the proposal and made some edits to the resolution including: changing the term length from 3 years to 1 year (proposed by Smith and seconded by Callewaert); changing the age range from 14-21 to 14-25 (proposed by Gibb-Randall and seconded by Mirsky). There was also a brief discussion about voting privileges for youth commissioners. There was a consensus about giving the youth members voting privileges equal to other members. Commissioners also discussed the possibility of opening the opportunity to youth who live outside of Ann Arbor and decided that

requiring an additional standard for youth that live outside of Ann Arbor (requiring 7 Council votes instead of 6) is acceptable (proposed by Hutton and seconded by Mirsky).

A motion was made by Callewaert, seconded by Hutton, that the Resolution be Approved as amended by the Commission and Forwarded to the City Council. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

19-1289 Urging the Washtenaw County Road Commission to reduce herbicide use through Adoption of a Comprehensive Roadside Vegetation Control Plan Based on Best Environmental Management Practices

The Commission discussed the proposed resolution. It was shared that the term "Integrated Pest Management" refers to insects as opposed to nuisance plants/weeds, so would not be the right term to use in referring to herbicides. Commissioners expressed concern that the resolution needed more specificity and nuance. It was shared that there is a big difference between broad spraying and targeted use of chemicals. Commissioner Graham offered an amendment to change "IPM" to "best environmentally-friendly management practices". Councilmember Smith offered an amendment of striking the first three whereas clauses and replacing the last resolved sentence to "Therefore be it resolved, that the Environmental Commission recommends that City Council urge the Washtenaw County Road Commission to develop a comprehensive roadside vegetative management plan based on best environmental management practices." (Mirsky seconded the amendment that passed unanimously.) There was a broad desire to have Commissioner Mike Appel look over the amended draft resolution.

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Planning Commission Rep Gibb-Randall, that the Resolution be Approved as Amended. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, OTHER COMMISSIONS, COUNCIL, AND CHAIR

Committees:

Natural Features Working Group: No update.

Water Working Group: No update.

Solid Waste Working Group: They met with Jenny Petosky to discuss metrics. The Working Group plans to have proposed metrics by the end

of the year based on SMART goals. They plan to use data from the STAR Communities process, if it is suitable. Commissioner Mirsky requested a new written solid waste quarterly update, fulfilling a long-standing commitment by the City Administrator to the commission, focusing on FY19 revenues, expenses, one-time impacts and the resultant status of the reserve fund. In the past 6-9 months, the Commission has only received reports on the status of the SWRMP Update and related Advisory Committee meetings; no financial updates / forecasts have been provided. He also requested an analysis which shows how changes to recycling commodity market prices have impacted A2 solid waste revenues, e.g. on a quarterly basis for FY19. Commissioner Mirsky would also like the Commission to receive a copy of RAA's MRF reactivation proposal submitted to the City in April and the City's evaluation of it - not just the status / timing of a potential contract but also comments on the content of the proposal (pros, concerns, etc.). He reminded Commissioners that the City has spend at least \$20,000 more per month - if not double or more than that - since mid-2016 because it does not have a local MRF. Moreover, processing recycled material in Ohio is generating more GHG emissions and is resulting in a loss of local jobs.

Commissions:

Planning: They are having problems with the oak trees for the Platt Rd project. It would be very helpful if the City had a Heritage Tree Ordinance. The Natural Features Working Group offered to work on that ordinance.

Energy: Commission congratulated Wayne Appleyard for his 26 years of service to the Commission and the City. A high school student presented about lighting issues. They elected a Chair and Vice Chair. The lighting ordinance is getting ready to be finalized. The EV Readiness Ordinance is ready to be reviewed at the Subcommittee's next meeting. The Home Energy Disclosure at Time of Market Ordinance is being based on Portland's policy. The Solar Access work may not go forward.

REPORT FROM STAFF

Staff Drennen reported that staff and Energy Commissioners are working on "modules" for the Power Hour outreach events and will be looking for new modules on how residents can save water, deal with solid waste responsibly, and care for natural features around their homes. Staff has asked that each Environmental Commission working group develop a few slides related to their focus area educating residents how they can help

contribute to a sustainable residence for incorporation into the main Power Hour slide deck. There is a municipal energy efficiency RFP out now, with a solar RFP in the works. Staff will be at Summerfest on the weekend. The Office of Sustainability and Innovations always welcomes volunteers for public events. There was a recommendation that staff should explore mechanisms to better publicize volunteer opportunities. The Office will be hosting 30 Sustainability Directors from across the county in early July. The Sustaining Ann Arbor Together mini-grant program will be open for applications on July 1st. Staff Drennen participated in an EV event at SPARK. The Office is interested in helping neighborhoods throw block parties to build community and resilience in the city. Staff will be ready to give Commission a presentation about Ann Arbor's 2016-18 Greenhouse Gas Inventories at the next Commission meeting.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Sustainability staff will give a Greenhouse Gas Inventory presentation. Staff will try and find a speaker to address herbicide issues and the City's plan and staffing for environmental emergencies. Staff will also see if the APTIM solid waste report will be ready for the July Commission meeting.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is July 25th at 7pm in the Council Chambers.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Alanna Djurdy is a mother with a toddler child and is concerned about herbicides applied by lawn care companies.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm.

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.
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