

Meeting Minutes

City of Ypsilanti Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting City Hall Council Chambers – 1 South Huron St. Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Monday, October 8, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:07pm

II. ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Michalowski	Present
Commissioner Drennen	Present
Commissioner Heine	Absent
*Commissioner Sampson	Absent
Commissioner Zeuner	Present
Commissioner Bayha	Absent
Commissioner Foley	Present
Commissioner McKee	Present
Commissioner Proffit	Absent

Also Present: Council Liaison Beth Bashert
Nancy Hare-Dickerson, Commission Secretary

**Commissioner Michalowski indicated that a resignation letter was submitted by Commissioner Sampson, who is expecting a new addition to the family.*

III. AGENDA APPROVAL:

Zeuner (Second Drennen) moved to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

IV. PRESENTATIONS:

A. Al Gore's Climate Reality Project – Sustainability Commissioner Emily Drennen

Commissioner Drennen shared that she is a sustainability analyst for the City of Ann Arbor and recently completed training by Al Gore in Los Angeles, California as a climate reality coordinator. As a result of the training, Commissioner Drennen provided a PowerPoint presentation of

the Climate Reality Project, which is a project dedicated to catalyzing a global solution to the climate crisis, founded and chaired by former US Vice President Al Gore.

[The presentation was a reminder that we are all connected and that our actions have an impact on our planet]

- B. Local Climate Impacts and Adaptation – Beth Gibbons, Executive Director of the American Society of Adaptation Professionals

Beth Gibbons, provided a brief introduction of the American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP), with headquarters on Michigan Avenue, in the city of Ypsilanti. Ms. Gibbons shared that she directs an organization for people who do climate change adaptation work all across the country and that a lot of her day to day is helping people to do their work better. She explained what adaptation is and discussed topics such as decision making and climate change, local past and future changes that impact climate change, as well as resources.

Commissioner Zeuner acknowledged ASAP as a great local resource and expressed interest in receiving their feedback in pertinent areas as the Commission moves forward with work on the Sustainability Plan.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

None

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of September 10, 2018 Minutes

Drennen (Second Zeuner) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Approval of the September 10, 2018 minutes as submitted.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

VII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- A. Introduction of New Commissioner – Katy Greenwald

Ms. Greenwald was present. Commissioner Michalowski indicated that she is expected to be sworn in soon and that a more formal introduction will be done at the November meeting.

- B. Update re: Youth Member – Ashanti Proffit

Commissioner Michalowski indicated that Ashanti Proffit, who was appointed as a new youth member on the Commission, has since moved out of state and is no longer a member.

In response to a question by Commissioner Foley, Commissioner Michalowski confirmed that new members are being sought for the two open positions on the Commission.

C. PFAS Discussion

[Referencing overhead material] Commissioner Zeuner discussed the state and local threat of PFAS chemical contamination; exposure possibilities through various consumer products and water sources; negative health effects which can occur; and possible ways to mitigate exposure. Informational resources through the State of Michigan and the MDEQ Environmental Assistance Center were also mentioned.

[Commission discussed productive ways the information might best be shared with the community at large. Consensus to research additional information and prepare a draft release for discussion at the November meeting]

D. Michigan Energy Freedom Package Resolution Discussion

Commissioner Drennen explained that the reason for the discussion is to review the draft resolution and provide feedback and possible support.

[The Commission reviewed a draft resolution, as provided by Councilperson Pete Murdock, in support of The Energy Freedom Package, House Bills 5861-5865, which is summarized as addressing how solar energy is regulated, generated and distributed in Michigan]

Council Liaison Bashert expressed her support for the resolution and the intent behind it.

Commissioner Zeuner indicated his appreciation that the *Energy Freedom Package* is being proposed in Michigan, and expressed his support.

Zeuner (Second Foley) moved to support the Draft Resolution in Support of The Energy Freedom Package, House Bills 5861-5865.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Sustainability Plan Subcommittee

[Commission consensus to suspend discussion until the Plan advisor selection process is completed]

Council Liaison Bashert updated the Commission that the process is progressively moving forward.

B. MGC Challenge Subcommittee

1. MGC awards ceremony update

Commissioner Michalowski thanked the Commission for their diligent work that led to the bronze level award.

2. MGC Action Item of the Month

Commissioner Michalowski indicated that discussion will be moved to the November meeting.

3. MGC Reporting Metrics Discussion

Commissioner Michalowski indicated that Commissioner Heine is taking the lead on working through the reporting metrics; that discussion is moved to the November meeting.

C. Outreach Subcommittee

Commissioner Foley indicated having no items to report and would await Commissioner Bayha's return for any updates she may have.

Commissioner Foley indicated that he would like to participate with Commissioner Drennen (Drennen accepted) to provide outreach of the Climate Reality Project presentation to the Ypsilanti community/neighborhoods. He stated that the presentation was extremely educational and that other communities in Ypsilanti would benefit from the information.

In response to Commissioner Foley inquiring about the time frame for the upcoming Washtenaw County Zero Waste presentation, Commissioner Michalowski responded that presentations are scheduled for December.

Commissioner Michalowski discussed possible ideas to provide recycling education and to motivate residents to want to participate. Asked that other commissioners contact him with any ideas they may have.

Commissioner Zeuner indicated that he will look into whether there are grants available that can be applied to educational work for recycling.

D. Master Plan: Housing Affordability & Access Subcommittee

Commissioner Foley shared that the subcommittee has now created a draft survey with an objective of assessing residents' level of concern about housing affordability and accessibility conditions in Ypsilanti, the perceptions of their current housing situation and future preferences with respect to housing.

E. EMU Liaison Update

Katy Greenwald provided an update regarding the newly formed EMU campus-wide sustainability commission and indicated that they hope to have a first meeting before the end of the fall semester.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Resolution 2018-08-002 – Public Recycling Bins Update

Council Liaison Bashert provided the following update: that Council is in discussion on the issue and is interested in engaging in public recycling but would require a longer time than the May 2019 requested date in order to build it into the new fiscal year budget which would begin in July. Other factors requiring delaying past the May 2019 requested date would be to allow staff time to do a study to decide the best way to proceed and the changes with having a new DPS director which would be the managing department.

B. Recycling Program Status Update

Council Liaison Bashert provided the following update: that Council and Ypsilanti Township have not reached an agreement that would allow all residents of the City to use the Clark Road facility. She indicated that the City has reached out to Recycle Ann Arbor and that a plan should be coming to fruition soon.

C. Peninsular Dam Status Update

Council Liaison Bashert indicated that the study has been completed and the final report is planned to be released in the next week.

D. Sustainability Plan Advisor Proposal Update

Commissioner Michalowski provided the following update: that per Director of Economic Development Joe Meyers, the sustainability plan RFP is being combined with the master plan RFP for cost savings for both plans, so no posting has been made yet.

Commissioner Zeuner suggested that the Commission become involved with the U of M master's projects program, where a team of grad students could possibly be a resource to assist the plan advisor. He stated that if there is interest in moving ahead, that the decision to do so and what the Commission is considering would need to be made by the November meeting.

In response to a question by Commissioner McKee, Commissioner Zeuner explained that the time line of the master's project would be the Commission getting the information in by November, the student groups deciding what projects they want to join, the start of the research process in January and then by April 2020 would be when the project would have to be completed.

[Brainstorming discussion ideas continued re: the plan advisor and the U of M master's project program]

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Desirae Simmons – Ward 3: offered the idea that the Commission think about conversation and partnership with businesses and restaurants, especially those who use Styrofoam. She suggested that more focus be placed on reduce and reuse, and for the creation of incentive programs, while also working to change personal usage of certain kinds of containers.

Commissioner Michalowski shared that a County zero waste presentation will take place at the December Commission meeting, with one of the premises being that vendors use specific materials that are recyclable and that are not Styrofoam.

Commissioner Zeuner stated that the point was well raised to also include education and sharing knowledge amongst the businesses in Ypsilanti and to include not only recycling education but also reduction.

Katy Greenwald suggested that the Commission might have conversations and possibly incentively work with some of the local schools to move toward reduction/elimination of disposable containers and utensils used at meal time.

XI. PROPOSED BUSINESS

Council Liaison Bashert - zero waste event discussion – possible assignment of a commissioner to begin early planning.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, November 13, 2018

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: 9:16pm

Foley (second Zeuner) moved to adjourn the meeting of the Sustainability Commission.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried