



MINUTES

City of Ypsilanti SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING One South Huron Street Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Monday, June 10, 2019
7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Keith Michalowski	Present	Nancy Heine	Present
Emily Drennen	Present	Julia Bayha	Absent
Bryan Foley	Present	Katy Greenwald	Present
Christian Cannon	Present	Beth Gibbons	Present
Takunia Collins	Present		

Also Present: Council Liaison Steve Wilcoxon
Council Member Annie Somerville
Commission Recording Secretary Nancy Hare-Dickerson

III. INTRODUCTION

A. Commissioner Takunia Collins

Takunia Collins, newly appointed commissioner, introduced himself and provided an overview of his background, work and interests.

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Michalowski indicated that he received a cancellation notice for the Presentation – *Students for Sustainable Energy*, and it should be removed from the agenda.

Heine (Second Greenwald) moved to approve the Agenda as amended.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

V. PRESENTATIONS--none

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Annie Somerville, newly appointed Ward 3 City Council member, introduced herself and stated her appreciation for the work of the Sustainability Commission.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of May 13, 2019 minutes

Greenwald (Second Heine) moved to approve the Minutes as submitted.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

VIII. WORKING SESSION

A. Sustainability Plan Framework Commissioner Component Proposals

Commissioner Michalowski: Stated that work has begun with the contractor who will be helping to draft the new Master Plan updates and the Sustainability Plan.

[In response to inquiry from Commissioners Gibbons and Collins, the Commission discussed vision, goals, timelines and previous efforts involved in work on the Sustainability Plan. Commissioners Gibbons and Collins offered thoughts and ideas as to moving forward with the Plan in a way that includes outreach, education and connection with the entire City community, which the Commission discussed as a whole.]

Foley (Second Collins) moved to close out the present discussion and continue to the next agenda item.

Council Liaison Wilcoxon: Discussed if the 6-month timeline presented at the kick-off meeting is realistic or should possibly be extended, considering that much of the outreach would have to be done in the summer when people are busy with vacation and other activities.

Commissioner Michalowski: Indicated that there is a Plan meeting tomorrow, to further discuss Greenhouse Gas Inventory, in which the contractor will also be in attendance. Stated that the meeting is from 3:15-4pm in Council Chambers, and that commissioners who are available are encouraged to attend. Suggested that a small group of commissioners meet, with a goal of being available to attend Plan meetings and to help iron out some of the details and concerns that were discussed.
[Commissioners Cannon, Gibbons, Foley and Collins volunteered for the group]

B. Commission 2019-2020 Goals Planning

Commissioner Michalowski: Asked for discussion as to what the Commission would like to accomplish over the next year. *[In response to inquiry from Commissioner Heine, Commissioner Michalowski summarized the list of Commission Goals for 2018]*

Commissioner Cannon: Indicated that he has grant writing experience and offered to assist with Sustainability grant opportunities.

Commissioner Gibbons: Discussed the desire to get other involved entities to participate in the grant writing process for dam removal.

[Discussion ensued re: Peninsular dam – the removal process, retaining history, clarifying sustainable goals with restoration and expected resulting outcomes of removal]

Council Liaison Wilcoxon: Explained that the resolution approved by the City was to go forward with removing the dam with the stipulation that the City would budget \$500,000 toward the removal and that the other monies would need to be raised from another source.

[Discussion continued re: the budget for dam removal, dam ownership]

Commissioner Michalowski: Indicated that the last listed 2018 goal was to increase outreach and educational efforts, which is ongoing. Stated that he will generate a similar list for the next meeting.
[Commissioners discussed items they would like to have added to the goals planning list]

IX. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. Commission Annual Elections Discussion

Commissioner Michalowski: Suggested that with the time for elections approaching, for commissioners to think about any possible interests regarding nomination of chair/vice chair.

Foley (Second Drennen) moved to postpone the Commission Annual Elections Discussion to the July meeting.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

B. Resolution No. 2019-084 Ypsilanti Central Business District Parking Study and Strategy Discussion

Commissioner Michalowski: Asked for discussion in regards to the survey.

[Discussion ensued re: roads being made safer for bicycle riders; need for increased bike racks and bike lanes; bike safety information being made readily available; need for increased signage; syncing of traffic/crossing lights; problem street areas]

Commissioner Foley: Indicated that some of the concerns mentioned are currently being discussed by the office of Senator Jeff Irwin, the County commissioner and the County Road Commission.

Commissioner Michalowski: Asked Commissioner Foley to apprise the Commission of future road updates as they occur.

Council Liaison Wilcoxon: Indicated that as liaison for the Non-Motorized Advisory Commission, he will share future updates with the Sustainability Commission.

Commissioner Michalowski: Stated that he will contact Bob Krzewinski, Chair of the Non-Motorized Advisory Commission, to ask if he would be willing to come in and speak with the Commission.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Resolution No. 2019-013 Banning Single Use Plastic

Commissioner Michalowski: Indicated that Resolution No. 2019-013 banning single use plastic was passed by City Council.

Council Liaison Wilcoxon: Indicated that the Resolution addresses City departments/offices and procurement.

B. Peninsular Dam Update

[Discussed during Working Session – B. Commission Goals Planning]

XI. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Housing Affordability & Accessibility Committee Report

Commissioner Foley: Indicated that a meeting will be held Thursday, June 27th, 7pm, at the Riverside Arts Center. *[In response to inquiry by Commissioner Collins, Commissioner Foley explained the purpose of the committee and work currently being done]*

B. EMU Sustainability Commission Report
Commissioner Greenwald: Indicated no new updates.

C. MGC Challenge Report
Commissioner Heine: Indicated that access issues were resolved and data entry is completed.

D. Plan Steering Committee Report
[Discussed during Working Session – A. Sustainability Plan Framework]

E. Perry School Solar Power Project Report
Commissioner Cannon: Updated the Commission regarding external sources he reached out to for support for the solar project and to discuss interest in supporting community-based projects; and a source which would be an assist with grant opportunities. Indicated also exploring the pros/cons of just solar and integrating solar & battery storage. Offered to collaborate with Commissioner Collins to create a gardening aspect to the solar project as a complementary addition.

XII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- A. Commissioner Heine — none
- B. Commissioner Drennen — none
- C. Commissioner Bayha — absent
- D. Commissioner Foley — none
- E. Commissioner Greenwald — none
- F. Commissioner Cannon — none
- G. Commissioner Gibbons — none
- H. Commissioner Collins: Asked if the Commission offers anything about rain barrel gardening/collecting rain water. Stated that he would be interested in teaching people how to collect rain water and how to hold and use rain water properly, which would be of help economically and with water conservation.
- I. Commissioner Michalowski — none

XIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION--none

XIV. PROPOSED BUSINESS—no additional

XV. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, July 8, 2019

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: 9:12 p.m.

Heine (Second Foley) moved to adjourn the meeting of the Sustainability Commission.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried