



MINUTES

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

**Monday, July 8, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Also Present: Council Liaison Steve Wilcoxon
City Planner Bonnie Wessler
Commission Recording Secretary Nancy Hare-Dickerson

III. INTRODUCTION

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Zero Waste Presentation with Lauren Koloski, Washtenaw County Environmental Supervisor

Washtenaw County Public Works--Solid Waste Division, Environmental Supervisor Lauren Koloski, provided a Zero Waste Events presentation, touching on the following topics:

1. What is Zero Waste
2. Understanding what is involved before starting a Zero Waste Journey
3. Purchasing the correct materials
4. Support factors; i.e., materials, volunteers, clear signage
5. Reducing, reusing, recycling, recovery and disposal
6. Considerations in planning the Zero Waste event

Query/discussion followed as to the purchase/cost of Clear Stream containers, compostable bags; the set-up of washing stations to wash recycling to avoid contamination; the shortest planning time needed for small events; recycled polyester; how the issue of outside containers brought into an Event vs inside containers going into the receptacle are addressed; laminated signage; proper disposal for latex gloves used for cleaning or by medical/police professionals; how to better address industries re: the proper disposal of bottles, glass beverage/wine/alcohol containers and large amounts of oil from restaurants;

Styrofoam disposal; the background of how Zero Waste Events was first initiated; and Zero Waste events which have taken place in other areas.

Ms. Koloski indicated that the goal of her office is to help reduce the amount of waste that goes into our landfills. She asked that the Commission provide a couple of month's notice if they wish to do a Zero Waste Event so she can attend meetings and discuss the details.

Commissioner Greenwald indicated that she runs the Environmental Science program at Eastern and that they have students who are looking for internships or volunteer experiences. Ms. Koloski acknowledged appreciation.

B. Non-Motorized Advisory Committee with Bob Krzewinski, Chair – Not Present [To be heard August 2nd]

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION- none

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of June 10, 2019 minutes

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

VIII. WORKING SESSION

A. Sustainability Plan Framework

1. ICLEI membership Resolution and ClearPath

Commissioner Michalowski: Updated the Commission with the following information – that the Sustainability Plan is being viewed as a chapter of the Master Plan; that the meetings that will be held for the public will be Master Plan meetings with the Sustainability Plan as well. Stated that in regards to the Greenhouse Gas Inventory, that the Commission can become a member of a group called ICLEI. Stated that ICLEI has a software tool available for its members called ClearPath which will allow easier tracking of the data. The cost of the membership is \$600 a year. *[Discussion re: budget considerations/availability of funds]*

City Planner Wessler: Stated that a great deal of technical assistance also comes with the ICLEI membership, both in educational and promotional materials. Stated that with the ICLEI membership, once the Greenhouse Gas Inventory is completed, that modeling can also be done. *[In answer to query, explained and discussed examples of what can done with the models]*

[Discussion re: budget considerations/availability of funds for Sustainability oriented memberships]

Commissioner Michalowski: Asked why was this not included in the original agreement, the \$12,000 that is being paid.

City Planner Wessler: Stated that they probably were not aware that we were not a member.

Commissioner Collins: Asked if, looking at \$600/year for three years, it would be wise to ask for an increase in the budget in order to have funds for other activities.

Commissioner Heine: Stated that with the current budget being for membership/subscriptions, asked if a new budget plan could be created.

City Planner Wessler: Stated that budget items can change over time at the discretion of Council and that the next budget process is coming up at the beginning of next year. Stated that if the Commission determines that the ICLEI membership is valuable, the \$600 line item can be maintained and then a different \$1,000 line item could be requested for other activities.

Responding to query, stated that staff recommends that, at least for this year, the Commission approve the expenditure of \$600 for the ICLEI membership.

Commissioner Collins: Asked if that calendar year would be considered a year out from today or just for five months.

City Planner Wessler: Stated that she expects that it is a rolling twelve months. Stated that the budget year runs from July to June.

[Discussion continued re: fiscal year vs calendar year as to funds availability and membership duration]

Commissioner Collins: Asked if the data would be in real time.

City Planner Wessler: Stated that the data would not be in real time. Stated that work is done with DTE in order to get the data for both the City's use and for looking for aggregate use and with vendors for things like fuel use, for example. Stated that in order to get data or update it, the data would have to be pulled and put into the tool. Stated that these are long term bar scale changes that we are aiming for. Stated that a year-over-year comparison is probably relatively useful but probably not even going to be as useful as a five-year-to-five-year comparison.

Commissioner Michalowski: Asked if there is a specified plan of maintaining for the software that the Sustainability Commission would be paying for.

City Planner Wessler: Stated that there is not a current plan to maintain. Stated that she will look into trying to get a lot of this data more clear.

Commissioner Drennen: Expressed a concern about previous difficulties getting good community data from DTE.

Commissioner Collins: Asked if this will be a continuous software that will stay in business in the next three years.

City Planner Wessler: Stated that it is actually software that is completely run by ICLEI. Stated that ICLEI created ClearPath and that they are the ones offering it and selling it. Stated that all of the data that goes into ClearPath, we can get back out, so that if we do need to go with something other than ClearPath in the future, we will still have the raw data.

Commissioner Collins: Asked if the City will be selling the data to a third party.

City Planner Wessler: Stated that to the best of her knowledge, no. Stated that a lot of it is not our data.

Commissioner Cannon: Asked if the data is obtained from a commercial standpoint, a residential standpoint or from a mixture of both.

City Planner Wessler: Stated that it will probably vary by the data type and will probably be a mix of both.

Commissioner Michalowski: Asked if the Commission will have access to the software.

City Planner Wessler: Stated that she would hope so, to at least view.

Commissioner Michalowski: Stated that he will get more clarifying information re: the time frame of the membership from date of purchase.

Commissioner Collins: Asked if there is a plan B for a second option.

City Planner Wessler: Stated yes, that the consultant would use Excel, which can be challenging in creating spreadsheets to work with and in generating reports.

Commissioner Cannon: Asked what other cities have adopted this software.

City Planner Wessler: Stated, a lot. Stated that the software is pretty popular.

Commissioner Collins: Asked if they don't allow the option to buy the whole year and if it is prorated, do we take the prorated rate and then deal with it next year.

Commissioner Michalowski: Stated, yes. Stated that the software is needed now for the contractors to do the Greenhouse Gas emissions portion of the Sustainability Plan.

Council Liaison Wilcoxon: Asked if we still have the STAR subscription for three years.

Commissioner Drennen: Stated that it was \$1000/year. Explained that we paid for a year and then, within that year, STAR Communities ceased to exist and merged with LEED. Stated that LEED for Cities is somewhat similar to what STAR Communities used to be. Stated that LEED is different from ClearPath, in that it is a reporting platform whereas ClearPath is more of a reporting for greenhouse gas inventory. Indicated that she wrote an email to LEED asking what do we still have. Indicated that she will update the Commission when that information is received.

Commissioner Michalowski: Read Resolution No. 2019 - 07- 001, dated July 8, 2019 into the record:

"RESOLVED BY THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

Whereas, the City is proceeding with a Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and; Whereas, the ICLEI makes available a software for use in creating such inventories to its membership, amongst other benefits; and

Now therefore be it resolved that the Sustainability Commission authorizes \$600 to be expended from account 101-7-7290-958-00 (General Fund: Sustainability Commission: Memberships and Dues) for ICLEI membership."

Drennen (Second: Cannon) moved to approve Resolution No. 2019 - 07- 001 for the authorization of \$600 to be expended for ICLEI membership.

Discussion: [Consensus to add the following language "*membership for the first year*"]

Greenwald (Second: Cannon) moved to approve Resolution No. 2019 - 07- 001, as amended, for the authorization of \$600 to be expended for ICLEI membership for the first year.

Discussion: Commissioner Michalowski: Indicated that although he is disappointed that it worked itself out in the way it did, that it is still an overall benefit.

Commissioner Cannon: Indicated agreement with Commissioner Michalowski and stated that it is a step forward to becoming a greener city. Asked who would be essentially managing the software.

City Planner Wessler: Stated that she would probably be the main staff contact, at least until there is a chance to talk things out with the DPS director. Stated that the consultant will have access to it in order to upload the data and to generate the reports that are needed. Stated that she will see if she can get at least "View Only" access for the Commission so we can all be on the same page.

Commissioner Michalowski: Asked if how the data was obtained will be documented so that it can be replicated in the future.

City Planner Wessler: Stated, yes.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

Commissioner Michalowski: *[Reference the folder of plans provided by Commissioner Drennen]*
Stated that we have a contractor who is going to work with us but, with budget considerations, we have to find some middle ground and have to establish what is important to us and have to make sure those things are in there.

City Planner Wessler: Indicated tweaking the draft goals and visions as needed. Stated her desire to schedule a separate meeting, such as an open house or a town hall to which the public can be invited and hash out what the public also wants to see. Encouraged commissioners to attend the visioning session on Thursday, July 11th and/or email thoughts/questions/comments to her.

Commissioner Michalowski: Expressed opinion that the process is moving faster than it should for what is being done. Encouraged commissioners to get any info into the visioning session and make sure that there is engagement with the Plan approach.

B. 2019-2020 Commission Goals

Commissioner Michalowski: Explained that based on discussion from the June meeting and a review of the previous goals list, he created a draft Goals Resolution. In answer to query, explained that when we are thinking about what should we be doing, we look to our goals.

Commissioner Drennen: Asked about the MGC silver level.

Commissioner Heine: Stated that two more were answered than we needed for the bronze level.

Commissioner Michalowski: Stated that the silver level is the one that requires the greenhouse data that Commissioner Heine was working on. Stated that he will look over where we are at and quantify it. Stated that silver may still be something we may be able to get ourselves towards and, if we cannot, we should be able to have a list of things that says "this is why we don't have and this is what we should do to get there".

Commissioner Greenwald: Suggested making the goals more specific/quantifiable. *[Discussion ensued as to possible language to achieve more specificity and ideas for ways to accomplish goals]*

Greenwald (Second: Cannon) moved to approve Resolution No. 2019 - 07- 002 Defining the 2019-2020 Goals of the Sustainability Commission.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

IX. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. WCRC Roadside Herbicide Spraying Discussion

Commissioner Michalowski: Stated that he was contacted by people with concerns about the roadside herbicide spraying. Stated that he reached out to the Road Commission, who indicated that they do not spray the City of Ypsilanti. Stated that the Road Commission indicated not being able to attend the Commission meeting to discuss it. Stated that the Road Commission indicated there is an opt-out process. Stated that he is bringing the issue before the Commission to garner thoughts, concerns and to see if there is a desire to put anything together to pass on to Council that the Commission disagrees with the spraying and would like it not to continue. Stated that Ypsilanti is still affected even if the Road Commission indicates they do not spray within the City limits.

Commissioner Greenwald: *[Initiated discussion re: WCRC opt-out language]*

Commissioner Drennen: *[Initiated discussion re: "City of Ann Arbor Council Resolution R-19-327 to Reduce Herbicide Use"]*

Commissioner Collins: Indicated that it should be discussed further, in addition to a plan of action because of the long-term effects.

Commissioner Michalowski: Stated that he is all for putting together something to move forward on this.

[Discussion ensued re: best way to proceed]

Commissioner Heine: Asked if it can be confirmed whether it is Ypsilanti Township or Ypsilanti City.

Commissioner Michalowski: Stated that he will look into that confirmation.

City Planner Wessler: *[Initiated discussion re: different road jurisdictions]*

Commissioner Collins: Stated that we have to lead by example. Stated that if we are working for sustainability to improve Ypsilanti, we have to make a stand.

Commissioner Drennen: Stated that we can even extend it further and say that as a member of this county, we do not want spraying in our county. Stated that we are not just standing up for the citizens of Ypsilanti – we are saying Washtenaw County Road Commission should not be doing this spraying anywhere, in our opinion.

Commissioner Bayha: Stated that it would help if we started by declaring our own city exempt from it, so that we would have a more legitimate voice to the whole county.

Commissioner Cannon: Indicated agreement.

Commissioner Greenwald: *[Initiated discussion re: the chemicals used in the herbicide spraying]*

Commissioner Michalowski: Asked for a volunteer to do some research and put together a resolution on the subject to be discussed at the next meeting. *[Commissioner Heine volunteered]*

X. COMMUNICATIONS- none

XI. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Housing Affordability & Accessibility Committee Report

[Commissioner Foley Absent]

B. EMU Sustainability Commission Report

Commissioner Greenwald: Indicated no new updates.

C. MGC Challenge Report

Commissioner Michalowski: Indicated no new updates.

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 having met with a Board of Education Trustee and an upcoming meeting scheduled with the Perry School Director of Facilities to discuss the project in more detail.

Indicated that he continues to work on the grant funding to support the project.

Also indicated that he was informed of the possibility of solar installation at the new Ypsilanti Library being built in Superior Township.

XII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

A. Commission Heine- none

B. Commissioner Drennen- none

C. Commissioner Bayha

Indicated that she was asked to attend and provide recycling at the Rutherford Pool Ice Cream Social on Thursday, July 25th and asked for a volunteer that would be available to assist. *[Discussion as to time and availability of commissioners]*

D. Commissioner Foley- absent

E. Commissioner Greenwald- none

F. Commissioner Cannon- none

G. Commissioner Gibbons- absent

H. Commissioner Collins

Presented the idea of the Commission teaching people about sustainability by promoting the carrying of canvas bags, and offering the bags for sale as a fundraiser for the sustainability program. *[Discussion re: cost/the integrity of materials used in the product]*

Commissioner Michalowski indicated he would look deeper into allowances and restrictions of the Commission.

Commissioner Drennen indicated that Legals would need to weigh-in as well.

Council Liaison Wilcoxon: Stated that he received an email from Bob Krzewinski, Chair of the Non-Motorized Advisory Committee, who indicated that he had the presentation listed on his calendar for tomorrow but now has put August 2nd on his calendar to present for the Commission.

[See V. Presentations – B.]

XIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

XIV. PROPOSED BUSINESS

XV. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, August 12, 2019

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: 9:21 p.m.

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried