



MINUTES

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

Monday, October 14, 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	Present	Katy Greenwald	Absent
Christian Cannon	Absent	Beth Gibbons	Present
Takunia Collins	Present		

Also Present: Council Liaison Steve Wilcoxon
Staff Liaison Ronald Akers, Public Services Director
Bonnie Wessler, Public Services Project Manager
Commission Recording Secretary Nancy Hare-Dickerson

III. **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Commissioner Michalowski explained the reason for inclusion of proposed Resolution 2019-010.

Commissioner Gibbons will include a "Land Acknowledgement" towards the end of the agenda items.

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

IV. **PRESENTATIONS-** none

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT-** none

VI. **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of September 9, 2019 minutes

Drennen (Second: Heine) moved to approve the September 9, 2019 Minutes as submitted.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

VII. **WORK SESSION-** none

VIII. **RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

1. Resolution Process Proposal – Resolution 2019-010

Commissioner Michalowski: Read proposed Resolution 2019-010 into the record:

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

WHEREAS, the Commission has not yet adopted a formal resolution procedure; and,

WHEREAS, the absence of a formal procedure has caused confusion for the Commission in the past; and,

WHEREAS, a formal resolution procedure would reduce confusion and improve the communication process.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Commission adopt the following resolution procedure.

1. An idea is drafted into a formal Resolution by no more than a quorum of Commissioners.
2. A Commissioner makes a request to the chair to add the Resolution to a future meetings' agenda.
3. The Commissioner provides the Commission with a formal first reading of the Resolution at the scheduled meeting.
4. The Commission will then discuss the Resolution.
5. The Commissioner or Committee will take the necessary time to update the Resolution as needed.
6. The Commissioner again will request the Resolution be added to a future agenda.
7. The Resolution will be circulated for formal review as necessary.
8. The Resolution is formally presented by the Commissioner again for a second reading at the scheduled meeting.
9. The Commission will again discuss the Resolution.
10. The Commission will then vote on the Resolution and/or choose to return it to Committee.
11. A majority vote will result in the Resolution being presented to Council for consideration by a Commission member or our Council liaison.
12. If the Resolution does not pass it may be considered again in the future if a majority of the Commission is in agreement.

[Discussion -- including comment from Commissioner Greenwald, via email -- as to reasoning for/ expectations of proposed resolution, clarification, possible language tweaks, additional review time]

[Commissioners Heine and Drennen agreed to work on tweaking/formalizing the language]

Commissioner Gibbons: Initiated discussion regarding the concept of a Sustainability Commission welcome packet for new commissioners, in similar fashion to the Human Relations Commission packet. She expressed her interest in working on its creation.

Commissioner Michalowski: Asked Commissioner Gibbons to put together some ideas for the welcome packet that could be further discussed at the next meeting.

2. Sustainability Plan Update Discussion

Commissioner Michalowski: Explained that he included attachments that he received from the folks working on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory for commissioners to review and then to later express any questions, concerns or thoughts. Stated a reminder that the meetings occur during daytime hours and those who can attend are welcome.

Commissioner Foley: Shared that he has attended every GHG Inventory meeting and provided a brief update.

DPS Project Manager Wessler: Shared the results of the Survey, with “expanding recycling options” as the favorite. Explained that the team will now work on taking information from the Survey, meetings and GHG Inventory to actually write a plan. Indicated her hope to have a skeleton of a draft to present at the next meeting. *[Discussion followed]*

Commissioner Collins: Shared that a grant is available through the Waterways Act which was published recently in the Ann Arbor News, that may be a helpful resource in river clean up. Also, asked if all the lights in council chambers have been updated.

Commissioner Foley: Confirmed that the lights are all LED. Indicated that the two City locations which still need to be converted are the interior of the Parkridge Community Center and part of the Senior building, which is on a replace-bulb-as-done process.

Staff Liaison Akers: Confirmed Commissioner Foley’s statement.

Commissioner Collins: Inquired about type of trash bags used by the City, plastic vs corn-based.

[Discussion as to type used, process for having sustainable products used/benefits, cost comparisons]

Commissioner Heine: Initiated discussion regarding the State ban on local communities from banning plastic bags, and the new bill to repeal it – the impact on recycling.

[Discussion clarifying the ban; the downside of plastic bag use/alternative options]

Commissioner Collins: Initiated discussion regarding the future spraying for mosquitoes.

[Discussion regarding chemical spray impact on pollinators & our food supply/effect of spray drift/possible creation of a resolution & language ideas/EEE virus concerns/possible consequences of not spraying]

3. 2019 Michigan Green Communities Challenge Update

Commissioner Michalowski: Expressed that submissions are currently being reviewed by the Michigan Green Communities Challenge. Indicated that it would be great to have representation at their annual conference next month, in Lansing.

Commissioner Drennen: Provided a brief summary of the event and explained the logistics.

4. Mayors for Solar Energy Discussion

Commissioner Michalowski: Indicated that this information is about a solar energy webinar that the Mayor was asked to join in on but is unable to attend, and reached out to the Commission. Stated that he will collect more information and send it to Commissioners Collins and Bayha, per their inquiry.

IX. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Michalowski: Indicated that this is the time for commissioners to share what they have been working on and/or would like to work on for the Commission, as well as any updates.

1. **Commissioner Bayha**– Indicated that she has been out of the country since the last meeting but that there are plans for a Freighthouse walk-through so she can begin to create a floor plan for next year's Earth Day event. Shared her appreciation for Cultivate and their staff for their "above and beyond" assistance with the past event.
2. **Commissioner Foley**- Indicated that he will be hosting an event next month at the Parkridge Community Center, geared specifically to the south-side community, to discuss with them the importance of recycling and how global climate change affects us locally. He indicated that Commissioner Drennen will provide a presentation and that all are welcome. He indicated that he will share the date when it is determined, along with any updated information.
3. **Commissioner Drennen**- Acknowledged her presentation at Commissioner Foley's event next month. Indicated, also, that she was happy about getting her boss and the mayor together for lunch to talk about ways that Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor can work together on sustainability matters.
4. **Commissioner Heine**- Indicated that she reached out to Lauren Koloski, County Water Resources, who did a zero-waste presentation for the Commission in July, to set up an opportunity to meet and discuss partnering possibilities with the County that might benefit the Commission.
5. **Commissioner Gibbons**- Indicated that she was contacted by the U of M Graham Sustainability Institute and asked if there were any community projects that would be at the intersection of climate adaptation and energy efficiency. Stated that they would like to have a Graham Scholars student group work with a client in the city of Ypsilanti beginning next fall and into the winter. She passed out information about the project and asked for any interested commissioners to contact her. *[Discussion followed]*
6. **Commissioner Collins**- Initiated discussion about the road diet - a target date, doing a study and getting more input regarding the roads from Hewitt leading to Cross Street – if an emergency plan is included to provide for larger service vehicles. Project Manager Wessler provided an update on the status of the road diet; indicated that the hope is to have an open house/public meeting in the next month or two.

Commissioner Collins showed samples of and provided information about the environmental benefits of corn-based products; i.e., cups, lids, utensils as options to using plastic. He discussed where the products could be purchased and outlined City events where the products could be used. Also included in the discussion was information regarding no-foam zones.

7. **Commissioner Michalowski**- Indicated that he continues to review what other groups have been doing that could aid the Commission in working to have a smoother process and to be more productive.

Council Liaison Wilcoxen: Shared that a recycling drop-off event is being held this Saturday, October 19th, at the Ypsilanti Farmer's Market, and that details are on the City website.

Staff Liaison Akers: Further added that Recycle Ann Arbor will have a booth and a “touch-a-truck” for kids to climb in to at the Saturday recycling drop-off event. Stated that he will be in attendance at the Farmer’s Market to help sign people up for recycling passes to Recycle Ann Arbor. Stated that dumpsters to accept glass and Styrofoam will be located at the former City drop-off site.

Commissioner Collins: Shared that Staples is offering free shredding for up to five pounds of paper.

Commissioner Michalowski: Shared that TerraCycle is a website that has a search engine that will inform you of where you can take items that need to be recycled.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ima Otudor introduced herself and shared a bit of background. She indicated that she is relatively new to the City and wanted to come and hear more about sustainability in Ypsilanti and how to get involved. She expressed her appreciation for land acknowledgement as a way to have people be present, aware and mindful of the history of the land they are residing on.

Commissioner Gibbons: Read the following Land Acknowledgement into the record:

“The City of Ypsilanti stands on the land that belongs to Anishinaabeg (including Odawa, Ojibwe, and Potawatami) and Wyandot. We further acknowledge that our city stands, like almost all property in the United States, on lands obtained, generally in unconscionable ways, from indigenous peoples. Knowing where we live and work does not change the past, but a thorough understanding of the ongoing consequences of this past can empower us in how we live, work and sustain to create a future that supports human flourishing and justice for all individuals.”

XI. PROPOSED BUSINESS

Commissioner Michalowski: Indicated that he made note of discussion items that were mentioned for next month’s agenda.

Commissioner Gibbons: Expressed that she would like to look into having someone come in and do a tree-trimming presentation in December/January to discuss and answer questions about proper tree maintenance.

Commissioner Drennen: Shared that the National Geographic film “From Paris to Pittsburgh”, which will address cities’ response to climate change, is a free event and will be shown at the Michigan Theater on November 12th at 6pm.

Commissioner Collins: Shared that he will be having seminars every U of M football Saturday at Lucky’s Market to communicate with the community about the difference between traditional tea bags, which contain plastic particles, versus paper tea bags. Stated that they will be giving out tea and that any proceeds will help support the Garden program.

Commissioner Collins also shared that this coming Saturday, he has a full event where he is doing the Forging of the Underground Railroad, discussing the Huron River and attributes of plants that are native to the Huron River. He indicated that details of the mentioned events, as well as others, are listed on his website - Willow Run Acres.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, November 11, 2019

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: 8:38 p.m.

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried