



AMENDED MINUTES

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

Monday, December 9, 2019
7:00 P.M.

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:04 p.m.

II. **ROLL CALL**

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

Also Present: Council Liaison Steve Wilcoxon
Staff Liaison Ronald Akers, Public Services Director
Deputy City Clerk, Sarah Stachnik

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kate Levin, 704 Hemphill Street, expressed that the native and pollinator friendly plants that she planted in order to protect and support birds and pollinators have nicely spread. She discussed having to attend complaint hearings about her front yard native plants, and that, as such, improvements were made on creating new beds and improving existing beds.

Ms. Levin indicated that the hearing judge directed the City attorney and Council to come up with an ordinance in keeping with Ypsilanti's status as a Bee City and that she was advised to attend city council meetings, pay close attention to the agenda and express her thoughts during the public comments.

Ms. Levin spoke about this being a time of climate emergency and pollinators being under threat of extinction. She stated that she asks Ypsilanti to lead in protecting and encouraging land use within the city for bird and pollinator habitat. She expressed her wishes for the wording of the ordinance and asked the Sustainability Commission to consider this in its recommendations to Council. She stated that a copy of her full comments is available to commissioners.

IV. **AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

V. **INTRODUCTIONS** – none

VI. PRESENTATIONS

1. Tree Planting and Maintenance with Megan DeLeeuw

Megan DeLeeuw, District Manager of the Washtenaw County Conservation District, spoke about their Backyard Conservation Education Series, which includes tree planting. She provided an overview of the Conservation District and its mission. After passing out a material packet, Ms. DeLeeuw discussed the basics of proper tree planting as outlined in the training classes they provide. Also discussed were upcoming Conservation District tree planting efforts, workshops and opportunities for Ypsilanti City involvement.

[Commissioner comment and query followed]

2. Pollinators with Commissioner Collins

Commissioner Takunia Collins presented information on various plantings that he is doing and overseeing that support pollinators and about a project where pollinator plants will be donated to different areas in Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor and Superior Township. Also discussed were upcoming planned events promoting pollinator plants.

3. Earth Day 2020 Update with Commissioner Bayha

Commissioner Julia Bayha updated the Commission regarding ideas and upcoming plans. Sunday, April 19, 2020, from 3-7pm is the Earth Day event date and time.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA- none discussed.

VIII. WORK SESSION- none.

IX. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

1. 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Schedule

Greenwald (Second: Bayha) moved to approve the 2020 meeting schedule.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

2. Carbon Neutrality Planning Process Partnership

Commissioner Michalowski: Provided a Carbon Neutrality Partners update.

Commissioner Gibbons: Provided an overview of the A2 Zero initiative.

Commissioner Michalowski: Initiated discussion regarding Resolution No. 2019-011.

[Commissioner comment and discussion followed]

Cannon (Second: Gibbons) moved to approve Resolution No. 2019-011.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

3. Resolution 2019-012 – Tree Planting and Education Partnership

Commissioner Michalowski: Read proposed Resolution 2019-011 into the record:

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

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Conservation District is currently seeking a grant through the ~~U~~National Association of Conservation Districts; [Amended]

WHEREAS, said grant would provide funds for:

1. A tree planting as part of an Earth Day event in partnership with Washtenaw County and/or County Parks;
2. Workshops for residents on tree planting and maintenance;
3. Training and equipment associated with whoever will be maintaining the trees planted from the event;

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti would provide support by:

1. Promoting workshops to residents and encouraging tree planting and habitat as part of home or community lots (for pollination, water management, beautification, air quality, etc.);
2. Connecting to neighborhood associations or equivalent to gauge their interest in planting and maintaining trees on an ongoing basis;
3. Helping to identify a site for the Earth Day tree planting effort, and helping to generate volunteers for this event;
4. Potentially committing staff time to maintenance of the trees that are planted during the Earth Day event if we cannot identify a local neighborhood association or community group or landscaping company who wants to do so;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sustainability Commission commits to a partnership with the Washtenaw County Conservation District to provide support for said grant and work together to increase the quantity and quality of our local tree population;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sustainability Commission recommends that City Council vote to budget staff, resources, and funding to support and achieve this goal."

Commissioner Michalowski: Provided an overview of past meetings which involved discussion regarding learning about tree planting and maintenance in an effort to take care of the tree populations.

[Commissioner comment and discussion followed]

Greenwald (Second: Bayha) moved to approve Resolution No. 2019-012.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

4. Community GHG Inventory and Report Update

Commissioner Michalowski: Suggested holding off on discussion until further comparison data becomes available. *[Commission query, comment and consensus]*

5. City Council Work Session

Commissioner Michalowski: Shared information as to the City Council Work Session regarding Roads and Recycling being held on December 10th, at 7pm.

6. Sustainability Welcome Packet

Commissioner Michalowski: Provided an overview of a previous meeting as to the creation of a Sustainability Commission Welcome Packet being beneficial for new members. Discussed information that he collected which might potentially be useful in the endeavor.

[Commissioner comment/discussion followed. Discussion to be continued at upcoming meetings]

7. Climate Change Event Update

Commissioner Foley: Provided an update on the Climate Change Event which took place on November 26th.

8. Climate Change Resilience from the Youth Up

Commissioner Gibbons: Provided an overview of the program, which gets students involved in climate adaptation and resilience, and discussed its benefits.

9. Peninsular Dam Update

Commissioner Gibbons: Provided an update that the City turned in a proposal to MDNR which includes a follow up to the feasibility study to continue looking more in depth at certain issues, and that it involves an in-depth engagement plan, etc.

10. 2019 MGC Challenge Update

Commissioner Michalowski: Provided an update that the silver level was not achieved.

X. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

1. **Commissioner Bayha**– none.
2. **Commissioner Foley**- none.
3. **Commissioner Cannon**- Provided an update on additional funding that he was able to find for the Perry School project. Provided an update on meetings he attended regarding grant work with SolarYpsi and with a solar designer as to infrastructure planning.
4. **Commissioner Heine**- none.
5. **Commissioner Greenwald**- none.
6. **Commissioner Gibbons**- none.
7. **Commissioner Collins**- Provided an update on his collaboration efforts with Michigan Aerospace to teach youth about weather gardening and to put together a project to do in-house gardening and autonomous gardening.

Staff Liaison Akers: Indicated that the City composts all of their yard waste at Water Works park, which is off of Factory Street and Catherine, and that free soil is available during certain times of the year.
Commissioner Collins: Expressed that it would be more beneficial to the community if the soil was screened, which helps to eliminate debris.

Council Liaison Wilcoxon: Provided a thank you to Commissioner Gibbons for her work done on the Engagement plan.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT- none.

XII. PROPOSED BUSINESS- none.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, January 13, 2020

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: 9:05 p.m.

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

Full Minutes Prepared by: Nancy Hare-Dickerson, Commission Recording Secretary