

# MEETING MINUTES

City of Ypsilanti  
Sustainability Commission

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

Monday, April 9, 2018

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:09 PM

II. **ROLL CALL:**

Commissioner Michalowski:	Present
Commissioner Drennen:	Present
Commissioner Heine:	Present
Commissioner Sampson:	Present
Commissioner Zeuner:	Present
Commissioner Kovacs:	Present
Commissioner Bayha:	Present
Commissioner Foley:	Absent
Commissioner McKee:	Present

Also present: Council Liaison Bashert; City Manager McClary

III. **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

MOVED BY SAMPSON, SECONDED BY BAYHA, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Motion:** Carried

IV. **PRESENTATIONS:**

A. SOLAR UPDATE – DAVE STRENSKI

Dave Strenski of Solar Ypsi presented an overview of the group. The group was started in 2005 and has brought in \$200,000 so far for solar projects. The group has completed 38 solar installations generating more than 1 megawatt of energy annually. SolSmart has awarded Ypsilanti gold star status for its solar work. The group is partnering with Charthouse for three projects: (1) Parkridge – 20 kw; (2) DPS truckport – 20 kw; and (3) landfill – potential 1 mW. The projects involve training local people to install solar equipment to provide skills for these people to find permanent jobs in the solar industry. The group is also working with Habitat for Humanity to install solar equipment on 3 of the 44 homes constructed by H4H over the past 30 years.

B. SUSTAINABLE SPOTLIGHT – GARY TURNER

Gary Turner has lived in Ypsilanti since 1998 and owns Community Builders, a small construction company. His company tries to keep work as local as possible and to control the amount of waste his company sends to landfills. The company recycles as much waste as possible by reusing building materials from demolition projects and taking other waste to the reuse center in Ann Arbor. The company is preservation-oriented and makes a lot of its own products, such as cabinetry.

**V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

None

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA:**

MOVED BY HEINE, SECONDED BY KOVACS, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:

A. Approval of March 12, 2018, minutes.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**MOTION:** Carried

**VII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS:**

A. YSC 2018 GOALS DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Sampson suggested that commissioners identify 3 to 4 priorities to accomplish during the upcoming year and submit the priorities for consideration at the next meeting.

Commissioner Zeuner suggested scheduling a strategy work session. He will send out a Doodle poll with possible dates and times.

The commission discussed several projects that should be considered in the goals: (1) Earth Day activities (this year's activities will be held on April 22, 2018); (2) Michigan Green Communities (MGC) Challenge – deadline is the end of May; (3) framework for the Sustainability Plan; (4) Involvement in the Heritage Festival; (5) Involvement in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade; (6) Sustainability Commission shirts for events (Bayha is working on this).

B. PACE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Commissioner Heine will check if the city has access to these county funds and what percentage of city energy use is derived from solar energy.

Commissioner Zeuner will check on possible municipal energy tracking tools.

C. BYLAWS DISCUSSION AND REVIEW:

The commission noted that the current bylaws do not mention the role of the city council liaison to the commission and need to be updated for clarification on this matter.

**VIII. LIAISON REPORTS:**

**A. SUSTAINABILITY PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE:**

Commissioner Kovacs provided an update on the work of the subcommittee. The committee is working to complete the sustainability plan framework and to coordinate with the Planning Commission to incorporate the framework into the community master plan. The committee is working to complete the sustainability plan, which will be similar to Ann Arbor’s plan with similar priorities and targets. The committee intends to formulate policy recommendations, address resiliency concepts, track results, and coordinate tracking methods with Eastern Michigan University’s practices if the University also establishes its own sustainability commission.

**B. OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE:**

Commissioner Bayha discussed the Earth Day event on Sunday, April 22, 2018. Go to the Earth Day Ypsi Facebook page and share the page with your friends.

MOVED BY ZEUNER, SECONDED BY BAYHA, TO EXTEND THE MEETING UNTIL 9:30 PM.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Motion:** Carried

**IX. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**RECYCLING EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

Commissioner Heine stated that she received flyers on several topics and wants to know how to distribute them. The commission suggested that she hand them out at the Earth Day event.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

MOVED BY HEINE, SECONDED BY DRENNEN, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Motion:** Carried

The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 9:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darwin D. P. McClary  
City Manager and Acting Secretary