

1. Sustainability Commission June Agenda

Documents:

[JUNE13_SUSTAINABILITYCOMMISSION AGENDANOTES \(002\).PDF](#)

2. Sustainability Commission May Draft Minutes

Documents:

[SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION NOTES MAY 2023 - GOOGLE DOCS.PDF](#)

Agenda
Sustainability Commission
June 12, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.
City Hall - 1 S Huron St, Ypsilanti
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Beth Gibbons, Chair	P	A
Julia Bayha	P	A
Bryan Foley	P	A
Nancy Heine	P	A
Takunia Collins	P	A
Liz Ratzloff	P	A
Shannon Baer	P	A
Devin Shelton	P	A

III. Approval of Minutes

- May 2023

IV. Audience Participation

- *Open for general public comment. Please limit to five minutes.*

V. Presentations & Announcements

- City of Ypsilanti Recycling Program, Bonnie Wessler, Director of Public Works, City of Ypsilanti
- MRF/Regional Recycling Program, Speaker TBD
- Ozone Action Day

VI. Election of Officers for the Sustainability Commission

<https://cityofypsilanti.com/DocumentCenter/View/3231/Sustainability-Commission-Bylaws-adopted-2021-09>

- Decision on positions to elect
- Vice chair election
- Additional positions

VII. Upcoming Sustainability Commission Presentation Topics

- August Meeting
 - Weatherization Programs & Incentives
 - Pen Dam Update
- Discussion and prioritization on remaining topics

VIII. Review of No Mow May Ordinance

IX. Filling Commission Seats

- Update on new process for Council nomination and approval

X. Content for Sustainability Corner City Newsletter

- News and notes from meeting

- XI. Upcoming Activities**
- XII. Staff Report & Updates**
- XIII. Reports (Commissioners & Council Liaison)
Spring Events**

Election of Officers for the Sustainability Commission

At the May 2023 meeting it was suggested that we expand our thinking about potential officer roles or subcommittees for the Sustainability Commission. Included below are the current positions set forth in the Commission bylaws and the potential new positions or committees that the commission discussed.

This is a link to the Sustainability Commission Roles of Procedures and Bylaws:

<https://cityofypsilanti.com/DocumentCenter/View/3231/Sustainability-Commission-Bylaws-adopted-2021-09>

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS, AND THEIR DUTIES

- Section 1. The officers of the Commission shall be a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary. Such other officers, sub-committees, etc. as are deemed necessary and advisable for the conduct of business shall be appointed as required and provided for by the Commission.
- Section 2. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings and hearings of the Commission and shall have the duties normally conferred by parliamentary usage on such officers.
- Section 3. The Vice-Chairperson shall preside and exercise all of the duties of the Chairperson in their absence. Should neither the Chairperson nor the Vice-Chairperson be present at a meeting, a temporary Chairperson shall be elected by the majority vote of the members present.
- Section 4. The Commission may designate a person who is not a member of the Commission to serve as Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary shall prepare draft minutes for review by the Commission.
- Section 5. Nomination of officers shall be made from the floor at the annual organizational meeting which shall be the regular meeting in April each year, and the election shall be immediately thereafter.
- Section 6. A candidate receiving a majority vote of the entire Commission shall be declared elected and shall serve a term of one year or until their successor shall take the office.
- Section 7. Vacancies in office shall be filled immediately by regular election procedures.
- Section 8. The officers shall be members of the Commission, unless otherwise permitted under Section 4.

Additional Positions Considered at May 8 Meeting

Secretary - At the May 8 Meeting the Commission discussed keeping the secretary position as a rotating duty with the Chair sending an invitation to all members of the Commission to disclose to the chair their willingness or unwillingness to serve in that voluntary capacity.

Youth Engagement - This role would be assigned to an individual on the Commission who would be responsible for field requests for engagement from local schools, teachers, students, student groups etc. This person would be the primary point of contact for educators, organizations and youth seeking information from and engagement with the Sustainability Commission.

Committees Discussion

The following is an excerpt from the Rules of Procedures and Bylaws regarding the purpose and formation of committees:

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

- Section 1. The Commission may establish and appoint ad hoc committees for special purposes or issues, as deemed necessary. Less than a quorum may serve on an ad hoc committee at any given time.
- Section 2. The Commission may establish and appoint citizen committees. Membership can be any number, so long as less than a quorum of the Commission serves on a committee at any given time. The purpose of the committee is to be able to use individuals who are knowledgeable or expert in a particular issue before the Commission or to better represent various interest groups.
- Section 3. All committees are subservient to the Commission and report their recommendations to the Commission for review and action. The Commission can overrule any action of any committee.
- Section 4. The same principles of these Bylaws for the Commission also apply to all committees of the Commission, including, but not limited to, making all meetings open to the public and keeping a record of all proceedings.

Committees discussed at the May 8 Meeting:

Outreach Committee - The purpose of this committee would be to convene outside of the regular Sustainability Commission meetings to create an outreach and engagement calendar and then represent the Sustainability Commission at relevant events throughout the City and potentially beyond.

September 2023 - February 2024 Meeting Presentation Planning

Commission Business

- Workplan development (fall 2023)
- Accompanying review of City's Sustainability Plan and progress and gaps identification
- Budget Request to Council (Fall 2023)
- Climate Action Plan Update (Due date:?)
- Input to City Council on Sustainability Commission related activities and decisions as needed

Updates on City Sustainability Activities

- Resilience Hub at Park Ridge
- Removal of Pen Dam
- Improvement of CBO/CBA Process, including engagement with Sustainability Commission
- Development of Water Street

Updates and Lessons from Outside Resources

- Updates on the implementation plan for Resilient Washtenaw
- Updates on the Climate Action Plan and Priority Action Plan developed by SEMCOG
- History of Sustainability - hosted in coordination with Bi-Centennial Commission
 - History of sustainability professor at EMU
 - Consider inviting Nancy Stoner from Ann Arbor
- Invite HS teachers to share students' interest, advocacy projects, work and lessons
- Bee keeping, Eliz
- Invite an herbalist and a forester and forager
- CPR & Water Safety
- Weatherization programs - incentives and how to engage
- MAJIC Relaunch
 - Campaign for 2023 is utility justice with sub-pieces on energy, water, and housing
- Just Transition Presentations
- Police Chief invitation
- Board Game! Playing Adapt

MINUTES
Sustainability Commission
May 8, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.
City Hall - 1 S Huron St, Ypsilanti
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Call to Order

Roll Call

Beth Gibbons, Chair
Julia Bayha
Bryan Foley
Nancy Heine
Takunia Collins
Liz Ratzloff
Shannon Baer

Approval of Minutes

- April 2023

Audience Participation

- No audience participation

Election of Officers for the Sustainability Commission

- Postpone election of commissioners until all commissioners present
- Discussion on potential new commission positions
- The chair will write up descriptions for work to be discussed with the commission at the next meeting
- We could consider the possibility of an outreach committee with multiple members to do outreach work in between meetings

Report out on Sustainability Commission Activities

- Earth Day Ypsilanti, April 16 12 - 5pm
 - It was a great event, may be difficult to replicate every year and is too much for one person
 - Next year could a different focus or something for narrow
 - It was very important for black farmers to have a voice at the event and not having it next year could silence that voice
- EPA Proposal Idea
 - Lots of engagement and support for the idea, Ann Arbor submitted a proposal

- We could have practice for these types of natural disaster events relevant to the resiliency hub network
- Preparing Ypsilanti Priorities for CPRG State Grant
 - EPA grants for \$3 million to states and \$1 million to cities to implement climate plans
 - Chair put up priorities from the city
 - Detroit is receiving a planning grant, handed to SEMCOG who is developing climate action plan for the entire area
 - Different ways that we will be serviced leading up to phase 2 (later this year) when EPA releases an RFP \$4.6 billion that we can apply for

Upcoming Activities

- Round-up of spring/early summer sustainability events
 - No mow May, city council passed a no mow resolution, sustainability commission to think through how to better encourage action on these goals
- Presenter Suggestions or Topics to Tee-up for June through September 2023
 - All of the earth day people
 - All things bees
 - Park ridge resilience hub
 - County on climate action plan implementation
 - History of sustainability professor at EMU
 - Nancy Stone
 - Play adapt the game
 - Herbalist and forestry
 - MAJIC
 - High school teachers
 - Recycling
 - Just transition committee just transition committee
 - Police?
 - Liz and Dez will connect on a just transition and MAJIC presentation - for August and September

Staff Report & Updates

- Awarded our green communities status, on our way this year, tree giveaway at DPS, some black cherry, lots of spruce
- Windshield surveys, drain survey
- Recycling carts are being distributed, commercial and multifamily can make arrangements with the city

Reports (Commissioners & Council Liaison)

- Shannon: made some steps to be able to bring information back about weatherization funds

- Julia: earth day debrief, thank yous, good to have it on an off weekend to not compete with Ann Arbor, working on compiling information from the event, we need a bank account
- TC: lilac season, will be making lilac tea and history of lilac, lilac sugar (9th and 13th), given away 5000 potatoes, partnering with extension, providing beans, indiana to pick up potatoes, teaching homeschool kids about farming
- Liz: just transition committee presentations to do more community education,
- Beth: joining classes as a speaker, recruiting youth members, river health project and land use project, climate change presentation on 5th graders, pen dam removal project updates for a future meeting, getting more information about the commission role in CBO and CBA processes, water street conversations
- Dez: no mow may clarification that it would be looking at a current ordinance that we already have and update that, will share with the group, conversation about commissions at the council meeting, will be meeting with reps and staff to talk about ways to better thinking about the structure and support for commissions, including de-formalizing them, exit form, will talk about budget and CBO

Adjournment