



AGENDA

Sustainability Commission Meeting

7:00 PM - Monday, September 9, 2019
City Hall

| | Page |
|--|---|
| I. CALL TO ORDER | |
| II. ROLL CALL | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioner Heine• Commissioner Drennen• Commissioner Bayha• Commissioner Foley• Commissioner Greenwald• Commissioner Cannon• Commissioner Gibbons• Commissioner Collins• Commissioner Michalowski |
| III. AGENDA APPROVAL (5 MINUTES) | |
| IV. PRESENTATIONS (30 MINUTES) | |
| A. Washtenaw County Climate Strike with Tamara Milton | 3 - 7 |
| Climate Strike Flyer | |
| Businesses' Pledge for Climate Justice | |
| Climate Strike General Information | |
| V. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES) | |
| VI. CONSENT AGENDA (2 MINUTES) | |
| A. Approval of minutes from August 12, 2019 | 9 - 13 |
| Sustainability 8-12-19 Reg Minutes | |
| VII. WORK SESSION | |
| A. Commission Goal Planning 2019-2020 (20 MINUTES) | 15 - 17 |
| Commissioner Update | |
| B. Sustainability Plan Update (20 MINUTES) | 19 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liaison Update• City Council Update• City Planner Update | |
| GHG Inventory Meeting Review | |
| VIII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS | |
| A. Earth Day 2020 update (10 MINUTES) | |
| IX. COMMISSIONER REPORTS (20 MINUTES) | |

- X. PROPOSED BUSINESS (5 MINUTES)
- XI. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

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_____ pledges to advance climate and environmental justice and the mitigation of climate change. To support these causes and the people who fight for them, I/we will:

- Close my/our doors for all or part of **Friday, Sep. 20th, 2019** in solidarity with the **global climate strike** happening on that day, and consider supporting future strikes in the same way.
- Prioritize **sustainability, justice, and reduced environmental footprint** in every business decision.
- **Respect** my/our surrounding environment and community.
- **Reduce my/our carbon emissions** as much and as quickly as possible.
- Move towards technologies, facilities, and operations that **do not use fossil fuels** or otherwise harm the environment.
- **Cut back on consumption and waste.**
- **Collaborate** with and be open to the feedback of other people, businesses, and organizations that **advance climate justice.**
- Refrain from donating to political candidates who do not unequivocally **accept climate science and address climate change** in *action* as well as words.
- **Invest in local farms & businesses** who are working to capture carbon through restorative agriculture.



Company Representative

Date

Washtenaw Co. Climate Strike Representative Date

On September 20, three days before the UN Climate Summit in NYC, young people and adults will strike all across the US and world to demand transformative action be taken to address the climate crisis.

In the US, youth and adults, institutional and grassroots organizations, climate-focused and social justice groups, are coming together as a unified front to demand the change we need to save our future. The youth have been leading the way and demanding bolder action, and now it's time for everyone else to back them up.

In Washtenaw County, high school teachers will walk out with their students, business owners will close their doors, professors from the University of Michigan will leave their lecture halls, faith leaders will join their congregations, unions will stand with their workers, and we will demand an end to business as usual and the beginning of meaningful climate action on a global scale.

The climate crisis is the largest threat of our time, and we're counting on our collective power to demand immediate and decisive action. This is our opportunity to move beyond the traditional climate bubble and expand the table of who is involved in this movement. It is time to lift up the voices and stories of young people on the frontlines of this crisis and ensure we are creating an intergenerational and intersectional climate justice movement.

September 20 will be one of the largest climate mobilizations in US history. We, as a global society, are at a crossroads. We have a decision to make. Are we going to choose money or power or are we going to choose our future? This strike is an invitation to choose the kids, choose humanity, choose the future.

Our house is on fire — let's act like it. We demand climate justice for everyone.

To [#StrikeWithUs](#), head to <http://actonclimate.net>

[#ClimateStrike](#) [#WCClimateStrike](#)



MINUTES

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

Monday, August 12, 2019
7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| Keith Michalowski | Present | Nancy Heine | Absent |
| Emily Drennen | Absent | Julia Bayha | Absent |
| 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
City Planner Bonnie Wessler
Commission Recording Secretary Nancy Hare-Dickerson

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

IV. INTRODUCTIONS- none

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Creating Opportunity and Affordability in Ypsilanti with Solar Energy – Dave Strenski, SolarYpsi

Dave Strenski from SolarYpsi updated the Commission on projects that he has been working on and asked for assistance of the Commission for ideas as to new projects. Mr. Strenski stated that he recently completed The Department of Energy Solar in Your Community Challenge and earned an honorable mention in the final report. As part of that project, he explained that solar panels were put in at the new Parkridge Community Center and at the DPW; that local residents were trained in how to install solar and then were hired to install the panels. He shared that he is currently working with the Family Empowerment Program which looks into renewable energy for low income families, to put together a grant underneath the name of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission. Mr. Strenski provided an update on his work to install solar panels on the 7-acre landfill by Exit 183 and I-94.

Mr. Strenski further added that there are many foundations out there. He stated that he would like to put together a group of people to write a generic grant application on how solar would be put on a hundred low income homes in Ypsilanti, figure out the criteria for selecting them, create a list of foundations for submittal, and help shepherd it through City Council for approval. He indicated that local

people would be trained and used for the install, and a company called Chart House Energy would be used to monetize the tax credits.

[Query and general discussion followed. Commissioner Cannon volunteered his assistance.]

B. Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Report and Discussion - Bob Krzewinski, Chair

Bob Krzewinski, Chair of the Non-Motorized Advisory Committee presented an overview of the Committee and passed out an informational handout with pertinent information about the committee and projects they are working on.

Mr. Krzewinski discussed Committee priorities for the year -- such as bike lanes; Border to Border Trail; Walk Friendly Community application submission; sidewalk/curb cut snow removal in the winter and vegetation removal in the summer; Events work, such as the EMU Bike Rodeo, as well as the Parkridge Festival and Downtown Halloween Festival, for example.

Commissioner Foley: Stated his appreciation, as Entertainment Chair for the Parkridge Summer Fest, for the Committee participation in the Summer Fest and the bike helmet give-away.

[Discussion continued as to bike repair stations, the importance of bike safety improvements, feasibility of divided bike lanes, and making the City a more bike friendly/walk friendly/disabled friendly community]

C. A Discussion on Opportunity Zones – Bonnie Wessler, City Planner

City Planner Bonnie Wessler shared a map of the Opportunity Zones within the City of Ypsilanti and stated that those are certain census tracts that have been designated by the State of Michigan. She explained that Opportunity Zones are basically target areas of investment for funding and development projects that are funded from an Opportunity fund and that they are meant to spur economic development in certain economically depressed areas within the country.

[Discussion as to what the funds can be used for, types of investments]

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT- none

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of July 8, 2019 minutes

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

VIII. WORK SESSION

A. Sustainability Plan

1. University Town Plans
2. Bloomington Indiana Plan
3. Holland Sustainability Report
4. Washtenaw County 2019 Energy and Sustainability Plan
5. Eau Claire Wi Sustainability Plan
6. Eau Claire Wi Other Sustainability Provisions

7. Oberlin 2013 Sustainability Plan
8. Oberlin 2015 Sustainability Plan Update

Commissioner Michalowski: Explained that he included reference plans which were shared by City Planner Wessler and would like commissioners to express their view of what they feel are important.

Commissioner Greenwald: Provided feedback regarding thoughts on the Bloomington Indiana Plan.

City Planner Wessler: Stated that with still being in the brainstorming part of the Plan, encouraged commissioners, as they are looking at the plans, to look at the goals to see what goals and what objectives Ypsilanti needs that could translate into it. She discussed a voting survey that is being made available and requested that commissioners review the survey, the site installation board and provide feedback to her by next Monday morning.

[In response to commissioner query, discussion ensued regarding the following: citizen education, as well as ways to address enforcement of recommended improvements; the goal and the implementation steps of creating the Plan; ozone emissions around the expressways; the inclusion of communication, safety and health; community meetings scheduled for August 14th and August 22nd, focused on Ward 3 and Ward 2, respectively]

City Planner Wessler: Stated, "at this point, I would talk about the content of the Plan, not the framing of the Plan. I have asked the consultants to look at it from more of a resilience and reaction sort of standpoint seeing that climate change is already here. So now this is more going to be about how to react to that locally, still with some mitigation and some green house things in there but more focus on the realities".

Commissioner Michalowski: Indicated agreement that "resilience is going to need to be the component of our Plan".

IX. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. WCRC Roadside Herbicide Spraying Discussion

1. Termination of Herbicide Spraying Program
2. Roadside-Herbicide-Spraying-Flyer
3. Washtenaw County Road Commission and Herbicides rev2
4. Certified Resolution R-19-327 – Washtenaw County Road Commission

Commissioner Michalowski: Indicated that a motion passed at the Washtenaw County Road Commission July 16th meeting, for the Board to terminate the roadside herbicide spraying contract and abstain from the use of herbicides as a part of the WCRC roadside vegetation control program.

B. Open Meetings Act Discussion

Open Meetings Act – Email Quorum Violation

Commissioner Michalowski: *[Discussion re: Email Quorum Violation Fact Sheet]*. Indicated that the Google group method which he had been using to capture information in one place in an attempt to lessen ambiguity will be disabled for forwarding emails in order to eliminate the possibility of an email quorum violation.

[Discussion as to appropriate ways to disseminate information and not violate the Open Meetings Act]

C. Curbside Recycling Update Discussion

August 7, 2019 News Flash

Commissioner Michalowski: Indicated that he included the following online document into the packet in order to make commissioners aware of changes to the curbside recycling.

[In response to commissioner query, Staff Liaison Akers provided an overview of the curbside recycling changes and the reason for the changes]

Changes to Curbside Recycling
 For more information on our recycling program follow this link:
<https://cityofypsilanti.com/301/Recycling-Program>
 ITEMS ACCEPTED CURBSIDE
 Plastic Bottles or tubs with numbers 1 (PET), 2 (HDPE), 4 (LDPE), 5 (PP),#6 (PS) or#7 on the Bottom
 NO plastic lids or plastic bags
 NO motor oil bottles
 NO Styrofoam
 Clean plastic and discard caps
 Tin & Aluminum
 Need to be cleaned before placing in bin
 Includes cans, foil, trays
 Scrap metal up to 1 cu. ft.
 Paper
 Bundle paper separately with string or place in paper bags or cardboard boxes
 Paper may be placed next to bin, but don't block the view of bin
 Shredded paper
 Corrugated Cardboard & Box-board
 Bundle in 3 x 4-foot bundles, or box or bag
 If too large to bundle, take to Recycle Ann Arbor drop-off center
 Place next to or on top of bin
 Cereal boxes, cardboard egg cartons and similar type material
 Flatten and remove inner bags or packaging
 NO box-board that touched food
 Newspaper, Magazines & Junk Mail
 Newspapers include glossy inserts
 Magazines and paperback books, including phone books
 Mixed paper, glossy coated OK
 NO plastic or metal tabs, binders, transparencies, carbon paper, or tissue paper
NOTES OF IMPORTANCE:
 Place your red bin at the curb 6 feet or more from your rubbish and yard waste, by 6:30 a.m. on your regular collection day.
 All recyclables need not fit in your red bin, but please make sure the bin is visible from the street.
 The new single-stream collection for recyclables means that paper and containers may be mixed in the bin. Please do not put bottles of oil or bags of rechargeable batteries in the red bin.
 50-pound weight limit

[Discussion ensued as to the following: the desire to have the City drop-off station return and the benefits; what other surrounding areas are doing with regards to recycling glass – Staff Liaison Akers to follow up and update; that conversations are occurring re: a county-wide recycling authority]

X. COMMISSIONER REPORTS and PROPOSED BUSINESS

A. **Commissioner Michalowski**– Indicated that the ICLEI subscription is a year from the date of the subscription; i.e., from August 1st to July 31st of 2020; Eco-Works is inputting the data; the Commission will have access to the results of their data in the short term. Commissioner Gibbons stated that depending on the level of membership purchased with ICLEI, there would potentially also be access to a tool called the “Temperate”, where they will create a climate resilience plan. Commissioner Michalowski stated that either he or City Planner Wessler will check into that and update the Commission.

- B. **Commissioner Foley-** Apologized for missing the last meeting. Indicated that as chairperson of the Summer Fest Committee and working with the Heritage Festival, he will keep his eyes open as to how they handle the trash, in order to learn what can be improved next year. Commissioner Michalowski stated that he would like to see the City invest in Zero Waste containers (due to the expense) and provide them to events to use and then the Commission and volunteers can assist with them being used properly.
- C. **Commissioner Cannon-** Indicated having no major updates as to the solar project at Perry School. Stated that he will update the Commission on the work with SolarYpsi at the next meeting in regards to the grant.
- D. **Commissioner Greenwald-** Indicated that the EMU sustainability commission will begin meeting in September. Shared that her program in the Environmental Science and Society Program, have set up to assist with the EMU student move-in/move-out at the beginning and end of the year for the last several years. Stated that they plan to do it again the Tuesday after Labor Day. *[Discussed what the assistance to the students involve, including their using the trash dumpsters and recycling receptacles. Asked that available commissioners would wear their Sustainability Commission shirt and help direct the recycling]*
- E. **Commissioner Gibbons-** Indicated that an opportunity came across her desk from an organization called EcoAdapt which does climate adaptation planning work. Stated that they have a grant for eight communities to host climate adaptation, planning and resilience workshops, in which she applied for Ypsilanti.
- F. **Commissioner Collins-** Indicated that he is working on collecting at least a million broken crayons by 2020. Indicated that it is a learning opportunity for children – that he recycles the crayons, melts them down and makes different collages. Also stated that he is working to promote the use of paper straws rather than plastic, as they are at least biodegradable within a year. *[Initiated discussion re: safety and security during meetings]*
- G. **Commissioner Michalowski-** Indicated that he connected with The Farm at St. Joe’s, which is a group who has worked for two years trying to eliminate barriers and establish institutional composting. Stated that they are having meetings and possibly would be willing to address the Commission. Commissioner Collins expressed interest in connecting with the group.
- H. **Commissioner Collins-** Indicated that his work in teaching gardening and farming to children was written up in the July/August edition of Spudman Magazine, where he provided the hands-on experience of teaching each child to grow their own potato, take it home and learn how to grow their own sustainable garden at home. Commissioner Michalowski asked if it could also be shared on the Facebook page, which Commissioner Collins agreed to.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT- none

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE
Monday, September 9, 2019

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: 9:22 p.m.

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

Commissioner Gibbons

Current Projects:

Advising on the Resilience aspects of the Sustainability Plan

- Securing useable historic and future climate information to incorporate into the Sustainability Plan

Currently available to commit up to 2 hours/week on the sustainability plan overall.

Advising and supporting grant writing and development of community engagement plan for the removal of Penn Dam.

- Meeting regularly with City Staff and HRWC to complete grant applications for the first phase of fundraising for the Penn Dam removal.
- Beginning the development of communication and engagement plan to ensure community members have thorough and accurate information about the process, timeline, and purpose of removal

Currently available to spend between .5 - 1 hour per week on the Penn Dam Removal process.

Going forward I anticipate dedicating time as a commission to the following general activities:

- Confirm a revised Title and Purpose for the commission
- Completing the Resilience Plan
- Align the Commission goals to goals and objectives from the Climate Action Plan and Sustainability/Resilience Plan

Anticipated .75 - 2 hours per week

Future Projects:

Among the top priorities I am interested in supporting and dedicating time to in the coming year include:

- Dam Removal
- Preparing for Street Repair and Traffic Calming Initiatives
- Integrating Reconciliation Ecology into infrastructure projects
- Integrating Climate Projections into infrastructure projects
- Establishing a Green Fleet Ordinance
- Research options for recycling programs, including strengthening how residents Reduce and Reuse.
- Beginning to scope a research project for the City of Ypsilanti to introduce a Stormwater Utility.

Based on the limited time I have spent on the Commission, I have heard the following top interest from my fellow-commissioners:

Keith: Low-impact Transportation

Katie: Reconciliation Ecology

TC: Youth & Gardening

Beth: Climate Resilience

Emily: Environmental Justice / Green Fleets

Commissioner Bayha

For the September meeting, I will have an announcement to make to the Commission regarding the Earth Day Ypsi 4event for April 19th, 2020....

Current goals and commitments:

I will remain on the Outreach Committee for the foreseeable future. I will do what I can to support efforts and events of other Commission members projects and anything we all work on together. However, as of now, given the announcement I have to make and the immense amount of work that will accompany it, I will commit to focusing primarily on organizing, producing and promoting the Earth Day Ypsi events, as well as whatever efforts our YSC is making towards restoring and expanding both recycling and solar energy in Ypsilanti.

Future Goals & Dreams for us:

In the future, I hope we can begin to work with city council to establish some legal and acceptable guidelines that will allow for a Tiny Homes Community to be established in Ypsilanti.

Commissioner Greenwald

I am happy to continue to serve as the liaison with EMU's Sustainability Commission and the Environmental Science and Society program. I have also been in touch with Ethan Lowenstein from SEMIS recently. They are interested in tackling the issue of climate resilience, and partnering with the Sustainability Commission to work with students at Ypsi Schools on these topics. I am not sure what this will entail, but I hope to meet with Ethan soon to learn more.

I'm also very interested in sustainable agriculture and local food systems. I am not sure what we can pursue on this, but it's another topic that I think will be important to consider for the Sustainability Plan.

Commissioner Foley

Residents of the 1st Ward aren't as aware to the importance of recycling, and the local impact of climate change. I plan to host a town hall at Parkridge C.C. this fall now that time slots are available since summer activities are ending.

Also I would like to create an local awareness of crisis in Amazon and its local impact. And, quite possibly a local movement to link up with other groups hopefully to end the deforestation.

Commissioner Heine

I have unofficially been helping Julia look for a venue for next year's earth day event. I don't mind helping where needed. I was talking to the county's energy coordinator and she has lots of information etc. regarding sustainability etc. I will be talking with her to get some ideas on sustainability and other things we can tap into.

9/5/2019

GHG Inventory Meeting Review - kmichalowski@gmail.com - Gmail

Hi All,

Thanks for a great check in meeting last week! Writing with a summary and task review of next steps.

Next meeting: The next check in meeting will be held either Mon. 9/23 between 12:00pm-3:00pm or Tues. 9/24 between 11:00am-2:00pm. **Please respond with your preferred date and time** and I will send out a calendar invite. We anticipate having all data collected and entered into ClearPath for review during this meeting.

Meeting Participants:

Henrik Mader, Bonnie Wessler, Steve Wilcoxon, Bryan Foley

Task Review:

City of Ypsilanti

- Reopen commuter survey to gather more responses. New deadline to complete survey is Sept. 13th and we are aiming for at least a 50% total response rate. I have updated the google form to reflect the new completion date.

EcoWorks

- Follow up with Republic to gather data on their waste collection and transportation fleet.
- Determine emissions resulting from MDOT owned railway within City boundaries.

Thank you,
Henrik