



MINUTES

City of Ypsilanti SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

Monday, June 14, 2021
7:00 P.M.

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

II. ROLL CALL

Keith Michalowski	Present	- Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City
Nancy Heine	Present	- Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City
Julia Bayha	Present	- Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City
Bryan Foley	Present	- Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City
Katy Greenwald	Present	- Washtenaw County, Superior Township
Beth Gibbons	Present	- Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti Township
Desirae Simmons	Present	- Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City
Takunia Collins	Absent	

Also Present: Council Liaison Steve Wilcoxon
Staff Liaison Ron Akers, Public Services Director
Commission Recording Secretary, Nancy Hare-Dickerson

Additional Staff Present: Bonnie Wessler, Public Services Project Manager (Zoom Meeting Host)

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Michalowski acknowledged the presence of the continuing U of M Resilience Hub team members in attendance - Bryce Frohlich, Taylor Antal and Jessica Miller. Commissioners were reminded to set up a time for interviews with the Resilience team.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

V. AGENDA APPROVAL

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

Discussion ensued to clarify the Action Plan Goal items listed on the agenda.

Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Commissioners Michalowski, Heine, Bayha, Greenwald, Gibbons, Simmons
Abstain: Foley
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Collins
Motion Carried.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of May 10, 2021 minutes

Simmons (Second: Gibbons) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Commissioners Michalowski, Heine, Bayha, Foley, Greenwald, Gibbons, Simmons
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Collins
Motion Carried.

VII. PRESENTATIONS - none

VIII. WORK SESSIONS – none

IX. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

1. Is Plastic Recycling a Lie?

An NPR News audio recording, entitled *Waste Land*, was played. An NPR article entitled *How Big Oil Misled the Public into Believing Plastic Would be Recycled*, dated September 11, 2020, was also reviewed. Query and comments followed as to the recording and article. Discussion was had regarding present-day issues and concerns with recycling, as well as thoughts and ideas for improvements in the process of recycling. Staff Liaison Akers explained the current process for handling the recycling of plastics in the City of Ypsilanti.

X. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

1. Action Plan Goals – Disaster Preparedness: Improve Snow and Ice Response for Sidewalks

Commissioner Michalowski indicated that there has been some forward movement on the sidewalk snow removal plan. He suggested bringing the item up for discussion at a future meeting as he has some further questions to look into.

2. Action Plan Goals – Neighborhoods: Coordinate Citizens to Advocate for Slower Traffic Speeds on State-Owned Corridors

Commissioner Michalowski indicated that this is a goal that he has chosen to pursue. In an effort to help commissioners delve into a goal-topic they may be interested in, he explained how he created a preliminary process for moving forward, resources to help him along the way and actions he could take towards implementation. Commissioners joined the discussion with query, and comment, as well as possible ways to assist.

3. Action Plan Goals – Energy: Reduce the Amount of Waste Generated in Ypsilanti that Enters Landfills

Resolution In Support of The City of Ypsilanti for The Allocation of a Certain Dollar Amount for The Purchase of New Recycle Bins for Residents of The City [reference packet materials]

Commissioner Heine indicated that this is a goal that she has chosen to pursue. Following up from the May 10th meeting, she reiterated the reasons for her drafting a resolution, as outlined in the packet materials. Query and discussion followed. Commissioner Heine asked that commissioners further review the draft resolution and provide any edits, which she will then forward on to Staff Liaison Akers for his review. The plan would be to finalize it at the next meeting.

4. Action Plan Goals – Washington Street Pedestrian Plaza Proposal

Commissioner Michalowski asked that commissioners review the proposal and, if there is interest,

he will place the topic back on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting.

5. Washtenaw County: Solid Waste Challenges and Updates

Commissioner Heine explained that the report provided in the packet was from a presentation done at a Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners meeting, which she shared for informational purposes.

Commissioner Gibbons shared that the County Solid Waste Commission would like to have more representation from the City of Ypsilanti and that seats are available. Further discussion followed.

Staff Liaison Akers discussed the City's participation with WRRMA's Recycling Quality Improvement Program which will begin next week.

6. Non-Motorized Transportation Master Plan Update

Commissioner Michalowski asked commissioners to review the Plan Update and to bring any questions or comments for discussion to the next meeting.

XI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners and Liaison, who wished, shared additional thoughts, comments and/or activities they are involved with related to sustainability.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

XIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS – none

XIV. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, August 9, 2021 [**No July meeting, per December 14, 2020 majority vote**]

XV. ADJOURNMENT: 9:25 p.m.

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried