

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of August 12, 2019 minutes

Greenwald (Second: Foley) moved to approve the August 12, 2019 Minutes as submitted.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

VII. WORK SESSION

A. Commission Goal Planning 2019-2020

Commissioner Heine: Allowed time for each commissioner to discuss their individual goals that were submitted in the meeting packet and/or to add comments.

Commissioner Collins: Initiated discussion and shared cell phone pictures of his experience at YpsiFest as to trash/recycling issues.

Council Liaison Wilcoxon: Indicated that the Commission is an advisory commission to the City. He stated that the purpose of the Work Session was to come up with goals as a body that can be reported to Council for action in order to further the efforts in the city.

Commissioner Heine: Indicated that the topic can be placed on the October agenda -- working on and prioritizing the goals and putting a possible resolution together for City Council.

Council Liaison Wilcoxon: Responded that it could also be a statement, going forward, of what the priorities will be, not just for the sake of the Commission but also for the sake of communicating to Council.

B. Sustainability Plan Update

Council Liaison Wilcoxon: Updated the Commission on the Ward public meetings being attended by City Planner Wessler regarding input for the Master Plan/Sustainability Plan. Discussion followed.

Staff Liaison Akers: Indicated that the on-line survey to gather information for the Master Plan/Sustainability Plan will be released this week. Stated that when it is released, there will be a "News Flash" on the City website.

Council Liaison Wilcoxon: Updated the Commission that City Planner Wessler made the link for the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. He discussed some of the tasks that were reviewed in the meeting.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. Resolution to Change the Name of the City of Ypsilanti Sustainability Commission to the Climate Action Commission, dated September 2, 2019

Commissioner Heine: Asked about how the resolution to change the name of the City of Ypsilanti Sustainability Commission to the Climate Action Commission was initiated.

Commissioner Drennen: Explained that this came from a mayoral decision to invite a sub-quorum of the commission to talk about commission issues. Indicated that, as such, there was discussion about the

Sustainability Commission's goals and how it has been a bit of a struggle for the Commission to find a place in City government where it is our own area of expertise and our own area to move forward because sustainability could be many things and has different pillars -- trying to figure out how to make the commission more efficient and effective. Stated that this was an idea to change the focus from full sustainability which includes equity, economy and environment, to focus instead on environment and to be very exclusive about that. Stated that the mayor asked that Commissioner Drennen write up some "words" in this regard and stated that Commissioner Michalowski added in some information about other commissions. Indicated that she is not sure if others added to it.

Commissioner Heine: Inquired as to if this is in conflict with the original charge of the Commission.

Commissioner Foley: Read the following paragraph from the Sustainability Commission page of the City website.

"SUSTAINABILITY: Achieving a balance of ecological, social, and economic considerations to provide for an equitable path for the growth and improvement of our community in the uses of our resources, remaining conscious of the historical context, while ensuring the availability and vitality of those resources for future generations."

[Discussion/comments ensued regarding the following:

that there is more positive outreaching citizen acceptance of the name Sustainability vs Climate Action;

concern as to the broad scope of sustainability and the ability/inability to move action forward when everything is under that umbrella;

concern re: the sub-quorum meeting/discussion of the proposed name change without the presence of all commissioners;

that "Sustainability" is an umbrella concept for many aspects of quality of life, not just climate, and has brought the conversation forward out of divisiveness;

concern that the name "Climate Action" will make it more convenient for people who already ignore issues of environmental/economic justice and inclusion to continue to do so;

that if there were issues with the Commission, there would be more attendance and complaints that the Commission is not doing what they set out to do;

that narrowing the focus and having more direction was more the point of the sub-quorum meeting, rather than a name change, in order to assist in getting things done and resolutions being sent to Council;

that groundwork for the Sustainability Commission has been being laid since the beginning and that it is a long-term push, rather than an immediate impact – that the work is towards a long-term sustainable impact]

Commissioner Heine: Initiated discussion as to how commissioners wished to proceed with the topic. Decision made to have the topic placed on the October agenda for continued discussion.

B. Earth Day 2020 Update

Commissioner Bayha: Updated the Commission on the progress of the Earth Day event and venue planning. Stated that the Earth Day event will be held at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse, on Sunday April 19, 2020, from 3-7pm, which is its 50th anniversary. Spoke about possible activities in response to commissioner query.

Council Liaison Wilcoxon: Query/discussion regarding the clarity of the agreement with the Ypsilanti Freighthouse – the Earth Day event not being a City of Ypsilanti event. Commissioner Bayha indicated that she will provide a print-out of the lease agreement for the next meeting.

Collins (Second: Bayha) moved to extend the Sustainability Commission meeting to 9:20pm.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

IX. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- A. **Commissioner Collins**– Indicated that he is currently working on indoor gardens at Chapelle school and provided details of same.
- B. **Commissioner Gibbons**- Indicated that she participated in the Ward 3 Master Plan/Sustainability Plan meeting and provided details of same. Indicated also working on resilience language for the Sustainability Plan consultants.

Staff Liaison Akers: Indicated that visioning sessions are in process and an online survey is forthcoming. Stated that he will ask City Planner Wessler about either her, the consultants or himself coming back to the Sustainability Commission with the feedback/findings after the public engagement results are completed.

Commissioner Heine: Asked about the timeline.

Staff Liaison Akers: Indicated that the online surveys will run through September. Also indicated that he was asked by City Planner Wessler to give a heads up to the Commission that a joint City Council/ Planning Commission/Sustainability Commission meeting is in the process of being scheduled, with a target date of Tuesday, November 26th. Stated that City Planner Wessler would like to know commissioner availability; and stated that he will speak with her to confirm the intent of the meeting.

X. PROPOSED BUSINESS

Commissioner Heine: Indicated the following topics for the October meeting – Discussion regarding the Resolution to Change the Name of the Sustainability Commission; Prioritizing Goals; Earth Day.

Commissioner Collins: Initiated discussion regarding the position of the speed bumps on Washington Street.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT- none

Council Liaison Wilcoxon: Initiated further discussion as to the aforementioned sub-quorum meeting.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, October 14, 2019

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: 9:18 p.m.

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried