



# MINUTES

## City of Ypsilanti SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

Monday, September 13, 2021  
7:00 P.M.

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** 7:04 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
Takunia Collins	Present	- Washtenaw County, Pittsfield Township
Desirae Simmons	Present	- Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City
Beth Gibbons	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. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Keegen Carty, Ypsilanti resident – expressed interest in possibly joining the Commission; shared background information and sustainability interests; answered questions from commissioners.

The continuing U of M Resilience Hub team members were in attendance - Bryce Frohlich, Taylor Antal and Jessica Miller. Commissioners were asked to set up or reschedule a time for interviews with the Resilience team. Query/comment followed.

**IV. AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

**Roll Call Vote – Ayes:** Commissioners Michalowski, Heine, Bayha, Foley, Collins, Simmons

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Gibbons

**Motion Carried.**

**V. INTRODUCTIONS** - none

**VI. PRESENTATIONS** - none

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of June 14, 2021 minutes

**Heine (Second: Foley) moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.**

**Roll Call Vote – Ayes:** Commissioners Michalowski, Heine, Bayha, Foley, Simmons  
**Nays:** Commissioner Collins  
**Absent:** Commissioner Gibbons  
**Motion Carried.**

**VIII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioners shared updates of events and activities they are involved with and/or are working on as relates to sustainability. Some discussion topics included: Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners Climate Action Plan information; Earth Day/Recycling/Bottle Bill/Sustainability-Green Facebook page; Resiliency Hub project and considerations; upcoming Rock salt price increases, Black Farmer’s Fund information; Water is Life festival update, ideas and plans re: future endeavors; work on Water Street remediation, flood improvements and outdated Sustainability By-laws.

**IX. WORK SESSIONS - none**

**X. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

**1. Flood Resilience Discussion**

Commissioner Michalowski provided an update regarding his work in gathering information as to the storm drain awareness project. Council Liaison Wilcoxon discussed providing education materials for residents. Staff Liaison Akers provided a brief overview of the City’s sewer infrastructure. Query/discussion followed.

**2. Commission Elections**

Chairperson Michalowski opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. None received. Commissioner Michalowski accepted reappointment as Chair. Commissioner Heine accepted reappointment as Vice Chair. Clarifying procedural discussion ensued.

**Foley (Second: Collins) moved for reappointment of Commissioner Michalowski and Commissioner Heine as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.**

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

**3. Commission Bylaws Update**

Public Services Project Manager Bonnie Wessler provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Sustainability By-Laws. Query and discussion followed.

**Simmons (Second: Heine) moved to approve the draft Sustainability By-Laws as updated.**

Discussion: Clarifying query/discussion ensued regarding proposed language.

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

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**At or about 8:57pm, Bayha (Second: Collins) moved to extend the meeting time to approximately 9:30.**

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

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**4. Sustainability Plan Goal Update**

Staff Liaison Akers provided an update regarding the work being done to improve snow and ice response for sidewalks. (Query/discussion followed)

**5. Plastics Pellet Free Waters Act Discussion**

Commissioner Simmons provided an overview of the Durbin Bill which addresses pollution issues in the Great Lakes. Commissioner Simmons offered a Resolution for Commission review in support of the bill. Discussion followed – request for more complete information.

**Foley (Second: Bayha) moved to postpone discussion regarding the Resolution to support the Plastics Pellet Free Waters Act to Address Pollution to the Great Lakes until the October meeting in order to receive more information.**

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

**6. Resolution to Support Bag Ban Repeal**

Commissioner Simmons gave a brief overview of the resolution and the significance of providing local support for it.

**Collins (Second: Heine) moved to postpone discussion regarding the Resolution to support the Bag Ban Repeal until the October Meeting.**

Discussion: Commissioner Collins requested that more information be provided. *[Discussion followed]*

Commissioner Heine initiated clarification discussion.

**Roll Call Vote – Ayes:** Commissioner Collins  
**Abstain:** Commissioners Bayha, Foley  
**Nays:** Commissioners Michalowski, Heine, Simmons  
**Absent:** Commissioner Gibbons  
**Motion Failed.**

**Simmons (Second: Heine) moved to approve the following Resolution offered by Commissioner Simmons to support the Bag Ban Repeal:**

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**Resolved by the Ypsilanti Sustainability Commission:**

**Whereas act 389 of 2016 preempted local ordinances regulating the use, disposition, or sale of, prohibiting or restricting, or imposing any fee, charge, or tax on certain containers,**

**Whereas Sen. Jeff Irwin represents district 18 where the City of Ypsilanti is located and he sponsored Senate Bill 0358 of 2021 to repeal the act preempting local regulation. And it was referred to the Committee on Environmental Quality,**

**Whereas one of our goals in the Sustainability Plan is ENERGY: Reduce the amount of waste generated in Ypsilanti that enters landfills,**

**Therefore Be It Resolved That: the Sustainability Commission urges City Council to use our resources, such as the city's lobbyist, to advocate for Senate Bill 0358 of 2021.**

**Offered by Commissioner Desiraé Simmons**

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**Roll Call Vote – Ayes:** Commissioners Michalowski, Heine, Bayha, Foley, Simmons  
**Nays:** Collins  
**Absent:** Commissioner Gibbons  
**Motion Carried.**

**7. Water Street Remediation Discussion**

**Simmons (Second: Heine) moved to postpone the Water Street Remediation discussion until the October meeting due to the lateness of the hour.**

Commissioner Bayha asked that the discussion appear first on the October agenda.

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

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – none**

**XII. PROPOSED BUSINESS**

Proposed items to be emailed to the Chair.

**XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

October 11, 2021

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT: 9:45 p.m.**

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

**Voice Vote: Unanimous**

**Motion: Carried**