



MINUTES

City of Ypsilanti SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING Virtual Meeting

Monday, December 14, 2020
7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Keith Michalowski	Present	Katy Greenwald	Present
Nancy Heine	Present	Beth Gibbons	Present
Julia Bayha	Present (*late arrival)	Christian Cannon	Absent
Bryan Foley	Present	Takunia Collins	Present
		Desirae Simmons	Present

Also Present: Counsel 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 – none

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Michalowski: Request to remove item 9.2.- “2021 Sustainability Commission Goals” from the agenda due to redundancy, in light of information being contained in the Annual Report.

Heine (Second: Foley) moved to approve the Agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Commissioners Michalowski, Heine, Foley, Greenwald, Gibbons, Simmons

Nays: Commissioner Collins

Absent: Commissioners Bayha* and Cannon

V. INTRODUCTIONS – none

VI. PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Michalowski asked commissioners to alert him as to any presentations they would like to offer or as to people they would like to bring in to provide presentations. Commissioner Bayha initiated discussion as to a possible idea for a presenter, which she will follow up on.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of November 9, 2020 minutes

Simmons (Second: Greenwald) moved to approve the November 9, 2020 Minutes as submitted.

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

VIII. WORK SESSIONS - none

IX. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

1. Sustainability Commission 2021 Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Michalowski explained the background history of scheduling the Commission meeting calendar dates. Discussion ensued regarding taking a month off from meeting in the summer.

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

Proposed Amended Draft - 2021 Calendar of Meetings

The regular meetings of the City of Ypsilanti **Sustainability Commission** for 2021 will typically be held on the **second Monday** of each month, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (first floor) at One South Huron Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Dates for 2021 meetings are as follows:

January 11	
February 8	August 9
March 8	September 13
April 12	October 11
May 10	November 8
June 14	December 13

The City of Ypsilanti encourages persons with disabilities to participate and will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) services, and audios of printed materials being considered at the meeting. Individuals requiring auxiliary aids or services should provide two (2) days' notice to the City, and contact the City by writing or calling the following:

City Clerk's Office
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197-5420
(734) 483-1100

All persons are welcome to attend. For further information on the Sustainability Commission, contact the City Manager's Office at the above address, or 734-483-1810, or <http://cityofypsilanti.com/642/Sustainability-Commission>.

Bayha (Second: Heine) moved to approve the Sustainability Commission 2021 Meeting Schedule as amended, having removed the July 12, 2021 meeting.

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

2. Annual Report Discussion

Commissioner Michalowski indicated that the Report is in the draft stage, which he will take the lead on. He asked commissioners to review the report and contribute information/additions/corrections that they may see. *[Query/discussion followed, including youth outreach initiatives]* Commissioner Michalowski stated that the goal would be to finalize agreement of the draft by the next meeting.

3. Public Recycle Update

Staff Liaison Akers explained that City Council allocated funding in this year's budget for public recycling containers. He provided an update as to the recycling grants which were applied for and awarded to the City to help assist with costs, and an update as to proposed roll-out details. *[Query/discussion followed]*

4. MGC Challenge Update

Commissioner Michalowski explained that those he was attempting to make contact with are on hiatus. He indicated that he learned that they were unable to get funding this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He indicated that he would share any new information when it becomes available.

5. Penn Dam Update

Council Liaison Wilcoxon provided background history and discussed the grant which was awarded. He also shared information regarding the RFP that was done for engineering firms to work on the project and the scope of work which that encompasses. The public engagement aspect of the project was also discussed.

6. Resilience Hub Pilot Program Discussion

Commissioner Foley provided an update on the progress of his work with the resilience hub project. He and Staff Liaison Akers also discussed the concrete work to be done at Parkridge park. *[Discussion followed regarding the idea behind having a resilience hub, proposed items to be kept there and proposed distribution plans]*

7. Recycling Program Expansion Discussion

Commissioner Michalowski outlined some of the past problems regarding establishing a recycling drop-off point for City residents. Discussion followed as to possible remedies. Staff Liaison Akers discussed possible options under review and the challenges involved.

8. Renewable Energy Discussion

Commissioner Collins discussed the idea of capturing the blue algae that sits on Ford Lake to create bio energy for reuse, as well as utilizing methane gas hotspots as a form of renewable energy. Commissioner Bayha discussed her desire to follow up with Dave Strenski regarding his solar energy roof projects in the City.

9. Urban Gardening and Biodiversity Discussion

Commissioner Greenwald discussed the importance of urban gardening and local food systems to biodiversity conservations, indicating that the two topics pair well together. Commissioner Collins discussed the importance of and the challenges of maintaining a beneficial amount of pollinators in the community. Commissioner Michalowski initiated discussion as to ideas on how to possibly utilize vacant space in City-owned properties for these endeavors.

10. Neighborhood Groups/Associations Discussion

Commissioner Simmons discussed her thoughts for setting up this project. She asked for input from commissioners. *[Discussion followed as to possible ideas]*

At or about 9:17pm, Collins (Second: Bayha) moved to extend the meeting time to approximately 9:30pm.

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

11. Earth Day 2021 Discussion

Commissioner Michalowski indicated that Commissioner Bayha is the main lead, that Commissioner Heine will assist, and that time will be set aside at the next meeting for discussion.

12. Water Street Discussion

Commissioner Michalowski indicated that time will be set aside at the next meeting for discussion. Council Liaison Wilcoxon shared that there is a City Council meeting tomorrow, from 6-7pm where there will be discussion regarding the Water Street project.

13. Municipal Resolution on Utility Rates and Delinquencies during COVID Discussion

Commissioner Michalowski indicated that Commission Heine provided the information and that discussion can be heard at the next meeting if commissioners have comments.

14. Outreach and Education Discussion

Commissioner Michalowski asked for commissioner input in developing ideas for the project. *[Discussion followed]*

X. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners, who wished, made final comments and shared updates of events and activities they are involved with and/or are working on related to sustainability.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

XII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

Commissioner Michalowski notated items for the next meeting.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, January 11, 2021

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: 9:33 p.m.

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried