



MINUTES

City of Ypsilanti SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

Monday, February 8, 2021
7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Keith Michalowski Present - Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City
Nancy Heine Present - Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City
Julia Bayha Present (*late arrival) - Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City
Bryan Foley Present - Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City
Katy Greenwald Present - Washtenaw County, Superior Township
Beth Gibbons Present (*early leave) - Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti Township
Takunia Collins Present - Washtenaw County, Pittsfield Township
Desirae Simmons Present (*late arrival) - Washtenaw County, Ypsilanti City

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. INTRODUCTIONS – none

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

V. AGENDA APPROVAL

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioners Bayha* and Simmons*

Motion Carried.

VI. PRESENTATIONS – none

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of January 11, 2021 minutes

Greenwald (Second: Gibbons) moved to approve the January 11, 2021 Minutes as submitted.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioners Bayha* and Simmons*

Motion Carried.

VIII. WORK SESSIONS

1. Sustainability Goals: Water

Commissioner Michalowski explained that, going forward until necessary, the work sessions would be to review the goals in the Sustainability Plan which are located inside of the Master Plan and discuss how they can be applied to the City of Ypsilanti. Discussion regarding the Water section of the Plan included topics such as Penn Dam removal, restoration sub-committee work, restoration opportunities, flooding and stormwater management, creation of micro pollinator gardens, drinking water concerns/water testing/YCUA-Water Quality Report, PFAS concerns, Water Street development considerations, educational opportunities – engaging students, and possible future presentation topics and presenters.

IX. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

1. Annual Report 2020

Commissioner Michalowski asked that commissioners review each section of the draft report and alert him to any item which they feel needs to be changed/corrected. *[Discussion followed]*

2. Penn Dam Discussion

Council Liaison Wilcoxon provided an update as to what has occurred, from the City’s perspective, from the time that Council voted to move forward with the project to remove the dam. He noted that it would be a years’-long project with many different phases, which he briefly outlined. *[Query/discussion followed]*

At or about 9:00pm, Heine (Second: Foley) moved to extend the meeting time to approximately 9:15pm.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Gibbons*

Motion Carried.

X. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners provided additional comment and also shared updates of events and activities they are involved with and/or are working on related to sustainability. Some discussion topics included: Penn Dam removal costs, 2021 Earth Day missive for commissioner review, Resiliency Hub update, Penn Dam power house building - possible EMU public engagement interest, compost/gardening education, research as to neighborhood resiliency needs, the Adapt game-possible future presentation.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

XII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

Commissioner Michalowski asked commissioners to contact him as soon as possible regarding any items they would like to see added to the agenda.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, March 8, 2021

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: 9:23 p.m.

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried