

10-18-23 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

PREPARED 10-04-23

PAGE 1 OF 1

Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Conference Room on 10th floor of City Hall, 161 W Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Adoption of the Agenda

IV. Approval of the minutes for the 09-20-23 meeting

V. New Business

VI. Old Business

a) EAP Expansion to address Mayor's Sustainability Plan Request

VII. 2023 Priority Issues (discussion)

a) Urban forestry

b) Land use / pollinators

c) Energy efficiency and inventory

VIII. Citizen Comments (3 minute limit)

IX. Commissioner Comments

X. Next Meeting – Wednesday, 11-15-23 at 6:00pm

XI. Adjournment

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION 09-20-23 MEETING

MINUTES (PREPARED 09-27-23)

PAGE 1 OF 3

Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Conference Room on 10th floor of City Hall, 161 W Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan

I. Call to Order Chairperson Kazmier called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

II. Roll Call

Present: *Commissioner Kelsey Heck Wood
Commissioner Jacob Inosencio
Commissioner Andrew Johnson
Commissioner Kelli Kazmier (Chair)*

Absent: *Commissioner Will Forgrave (Sixth Ward Councilmember)
Commissioner Jane Flores
Commissioner Conner Wood*

Staff: *Troy R White, City of Jackson Engineering*

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Heck Wood and seconded by Commissioner Inosencio to approve the agenda as presented approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of the minutes for the 08-16-23 meeting

Motion made by Commissioner Heck Wood and seconded by Commissioner Inosencio to approve the minutes for the 08-16-23 meeting as presented approved unanimously.

V. New Business

None.

VI. Old Business

a) Evaluation of Environmental Action Plan (EAP)

Commissioner Inosencio related that his understanding of the Commission's intent is to update and strengthen the EAP based on the evaluation provided by Graham Diedrich. The framework presented in said evaluation is comprehensive and a framework that the EAP will transition to.

Commissioner Kazmier related that an outline will be prepared in the format of the new framework with eight buckets that are divided into subtopics. She related that she had prepared the framework outline form that was provided to Mr. White who then transmitted it to the Commissioners for their input. The intent was for each of the Commissioners to submit their priorities in the format of the framework outline form that would then be discussed by the Commission as a whole.

Commissioner Kazmier related that she had reached out to Mr. Graham. Mr. Graham will assist the Commission where he can and provided his paper that was included in the agenda.

Commissioner Johnson related that he generated a response in the format of the framework outline form. He related that Mr. Graham's paper was very helpful in generating ideas for each bucket in the framework outline form.

Commissioner Kazmier stated that a link was provided to Kalamazoo's EAP in the agenda. She related that Kalamazoo's plan had the top ranking in Mr. Graham's evaluation and Jackson's EAP had the lowest ranking.

Commissioner Johnson suggested that the next step is to brainstorm ideas to fill in the framework and use Kalamazoo's plan as a reference to fill in the blanks.

Commissioner Johnson then presented the framework outline form that he had completed. There was discussion amongst the Commissioners of his presentation and additions/updates to Commissioner Johnson's document based on the discussion and Commissioners' input. The final document will be provided to Mr. White for inclusion in the meeting minutes.

Commissioner Kazmier inquired about next steps.

Commissioner Inosencio suggested the document be cleaned up as to form and shared with the City Manager and Mayor.

Commissioner Kazmier proposed that the revised EAP, once it has been generated, be presented to City Council for adoption rather than being presented for acceptance and acknowledgement as was previously done with the current EAP.

Commissioner Johnson related that some communities add staff to work towards the implementation of the EAP by each City Department. A goal should be budgetary action towards EAP implementation.

VII. 2023 Priority Issues

a) Urban Forestry

No discussion due to constrained time.

b) Land Use and Pollinators

No discussion due to constrained time.

c) Energy Efficiency and Inventory

No discussion due to constrained time.

VIII. Citizen Comments

Peter Bormuth of 142 W Pearl Street spoke regarding 1) Willbee Concrete's proposed asphalt plant and concrete crushing operation in Summit Township, 2) depletion of the Marshall Aquifer in west Michigan and the potential for local water shortages due to weather and Consumers Energy's permitted withdrawals, 3) the need for Jackson's Superfund sites to remain in the public's view and attention and 4) borings and related chemicals found in the sediments in the lagoons at the County's Cascades Park.

Kate Kono spoke regarding the need to increase bike accessibility.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Inosencio thanked Commissioner Johnson for his work on the outline for EAP revisions. Commissioner Inosencio related that he wants the revised EAP to have teeth and for it to provide a better understanding of what the Commission is working towards and how it will be implemented. And he wants to understand if City Council will support the revised EAP and its implementation.

X. Next Meeting – Wednesday, 10-18-23 at 6:00pm

XI. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Inosencio and seconded by Commissioner Heck Wood to adjourn approved unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:33 pm.

Jackson Environmental Action Plan Expansion

Responses by Commissioner Andy Johnson begun with initials, AMJ.

- I. Water
 - a. Improved water quantity and quality
 - i. Information base
 1. AMJ – Record leaks in water mains
 2. AMJ – Record age of water main per lineal foot
 3. AMJ – Cut off County's Use of Aquifer to feed pond at Cascades
 4. AMJ – WaterTreat with chemical
 5. Move wells from heavily industrial areas
 - ii. Vision, goals, and objectives
 1. AMJ – Repair leaks in water system to create greater efficiency in water delivery and lower cost through less waste
 2. AMJ – repair old pipelines to provide better quality water, have fewer costly emergency repairs, allow roads to be improved above old water mains, and provide a more resilient system.
 - iii. Options and priorities
 1. AMJ – eliminate largest leaks or at least ones we can afford to access and repair
 2. AMJ – replace oldest water lines to move the average age up on entire system
 - iv. Actions
 1. AMJ – increase water rates to move the needle on age of water infrastructure to healthy age. Below appropriate water rates create larger long term costs. Stay up on maintenance for greater sustainability
 - v. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation
 1. AMJ – with greater funding toward pipeline repair, begin replacing oldest lines with worst roads to maximize infrastructure dollars
 - b. Reduced GHG and other gaseous emissions
 - i. Information base
 1. Tree Canopy
 2. Public Transportation
 3. Childhood Asthma Rates
 4. Heavy Industry Particle Index
 - ii. Vision, goals, and objectives
 - iii. Options and priorities
 - iv. Actions
 - v. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation
- II. Air
 - a. Improved air quality
 - i. Information base
 1. Tree Canopy
 2. Public Transportation
 3. Childhood Asthma Rates
 4. Heavy Industry Particle Index
 - ii. Vision, goals, and objectives
 - iii. Options and priorities
 - iv. Actions
 - v. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation
 - b. Reduced GHG and other gaseous emissions
 - i. Information base

1. Greater EV adoption
2. Greater Heat Pump Adoption by businesses and residences
3. Utilities greater use of green energy sources
4. Use of hydrogen in manufacturing operations

- ii. Vision, goals, and objectives
- iii. Options and priorities
- iv. Actions
- v. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation

III. Energy

a. Increased utilization of clean energy

- i. Information base
 1. Veregy Audit should encompass all needed data
- ii. Vision, goals, and objectives
- iii. Options and priorities
- iv. Actions
- v. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation

b. Reduced energy use through efficiency savings

- i. Information base
 1. Veregy Audit should encompass all needed data
 2. Investigate Ordinances for Roof Codes and Rooftop Solar
 - a. Limit roofing color on industrial properties
- ii. Vision, goals, and objectives
- iii. Options and priorities
- iv. Actions
- v. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation

IV. Transportation

a. Improved access to sustainable transportation

- i. Information base
 1. Road improvements to cut down on auto repair bills, bore mostly by lower income residence with older model vehicles
 2. Public Transportation to more energy efficient models
 3. Reduce Asphalt and Concrete use
 4. Road Dieting
- ii. Vision, goals, and objectives
- iii. Options and priorities
- iv. Actions
- v. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation

b. Enhanced opportunities for human powered transportation

- i. Information base
 1. Trail Improvements

2. More bike lanes
 3. Non-motorized plan
 4. Sidewalk ADA access at crosswalks
- ii. Vision, goals, and objectives
 - iii. Options and priorities
 - iv. Actions
 - v. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation

V. Weather

- a. Improved resiliency toward extreme weather events
 - i. Information base
 1. Greater Investment in Storm Water Mitigation Throughout city
 - a. Public investment
 - b. Private capture
 - c. Road Diet
 2. Tree management to reduce electrical outages
 - a. Consumer Energy 5 year tree trimming plan
 - b. Turn back on time by income
 3. Severe Event Planning
 - a. Warming and Flood Centers
 - b. Warning Systems
 - ii. Vision, goals, and objectives
 - iii. Options and priorities
 - iv. Actions
 - v. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation

VI. Ecosystems

- a. Expanded green space and urban forests
 - i. Information base
 1. Tree Canopy Survey – grant received for survey from USDA 5 year
 - a. Kick-off meeting in Oct 2023
 2. Pollinator Gardens
 3. Urban Agriculture
 4. Landscape Ordinance – i.e. Wildflower front yards allowable
 5. Urban Nursery
 - ii. Vision, goals, and objectives
 - iii. Options and priorities
 - iv. Actions
 - v. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation
- b. Improved genetic, species, and/or ecosystem diversity
 - i. Information base
 1. Tree planting specific species
 2. Raingarden and pollinator gardens native plants

3. Eliminating invasive and species
4. unbalanced environments
- ii. Vision, goals, and objectives
- iii. Options and priorities
- iv. Actions
- v. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation

VII. Solid Waste

- a. Decreased municipal waste as recycling, reuse, and/or other programs are expanded
 - i. Information base
 1. AMJ – Record volume of storm water being processed at WWTP
 - ii. Vision, goals, and objectives
 - iii. Options and priorities
 - iv. Actions
 - v. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation

VIII. Environmental Justice

- a. Increased community involvement in environmental decision-making
 - i. Information base
 - ii. Vision, goals, and objectives
 - iii. Options and priorities
 - iv. Actions
 - v. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation

- b. Establishment of an equitable distribution of environmental resources, benefits, and costs

- i. Information base
 1. Grant Assistance for Lower Income Households to Adopt EV's
 - a. Grants would upgrade house panels, install level 2 chargers
 2. Green Investment dollars can boost local economy through increased income in profit and wages, if local firms are hired for implementation
 3. Heat Pump Grants
 4. Weatherization Residences
 5. Water Shut-offs and lead line replacement
 6. Street Light Installation
 7. Lead Paint in Residences
- ii. Vision, goals, and objectives
- iii. Options and priorities
- iv. Actions
- v. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation