

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION 09-20-23 MEETING

MINUTES (APPROVED 10-18-23)

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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.