

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Olsson at 5:03 PM.

2. Attendance

Councilmembers Present: Kris Olsson (Ann Arbor Township), Anne Brown (Ypsilanti), Sue Shink (Northfield Township), Tim Redmond (Scio Township), Andrew Comai (Southfield), Theresa Tupacz (Pittsfield Township). Jason Morgan joined at 5:10 PM (Junction City, Portage County, Wisconsin). Michelle Deatrick joined at 5:18 PM (Driving through Pennsylvania).

Councilmembers Absent: Gay MacGregor, Lisa Wozniak, Hallie Fox.

Staff Present: Jason Fee, April Avigne, Andrew DeLeeuw

Others Present: Matt Naud, Chip Smith, Briana DuBose, and Hank Love; Climate Action Plan project team.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Brown, seconded by Shink. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes (5 Minutes)

A. October 26, 2021

Councilmember Comai asked that the minutes clarify that the UAW had received training grants for flood preparedness and hazard mitigation. This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Moved by Shink, seconded by Brown. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

5. Citizen Participation: *each person will have four (4) minutes to address the Council*

None.

6. Council Responses to Citizen Participation (5 Minutes)

None.

7. Special Presentations

None.

8. Regular Business

A. Climate Action Plan –

a. Climate Action Plan Project Timeline

Matt Naud provided a summary of the project timeline used to develop the climate action plan. He described the plans for community engagement and starting with a few meetings in December, but then ramping up the meetings and engagement in January. He described the process of using the engagement to build the plan and to continue to revise the plan based on continual input.

Councilmember Morgan asked questions about the use of the ambassador model, and whether it had been used previously and how it worked. Briana Dubose indicated that they had used this model with existing work in Detroit and that it had successfully involved community members in the planning process who hadn't previously been involved in government planning and outreach efforts.

b. Community Engagement Update

Brianna DuBose provided an update on community engagement process being designed to develop the climate action plan. She discussed the need for an equity based engagement process, the philosophy of the engagement, the expected deliverables, the tools to be utilized, the use of the "co-urbanize" platform, and revisited the timelines for engagement.

Councilmember Redmond asked about how the engagement process will be engaging with groups like the Scio Township Sustainability Commission and other bodies of local units. Matt Naud responded that the townships and other local governments are included in the outreach and engagement process. Councilmember Brown mentioned that the City of Ann Arbor does have pockets of high need that should be considered for additional meeting. Andrew DeLeeuw responded that the thinking was that the County's plan can rely on the outreach and engagement that went into the development of the City's A2Zero Plan. Hank Love indicated that Ann Arbor's efforts are also differentiated within city limits based on the various needs within city limits

c. Vulnerability Assessment Proposal

Hank Love gave a presentation on what would be included in the Vulnerability Assessment, how various data sources can be brought together to understand where socioeconomic vulnerabilities and climate vulnerabilities intersect, the data available, and the existing tools that can make this information available to the planning process and decision makers. Matt Naud added about the ability to integrate climate risks into other local hazard planning efforts.

Chair Olsson asked about the availability of the vulnerability assessment to be used by the public in the community engagement process and to determine where engagement should happen. Hank Love responded that those discussions are happening, and that there's a wealth of information already available and that the best use of resources is to make that information available and understandable to the public in their decision making. Chip Smith added that the early rounds of engagement will be focused on helping to connect personal issues and concerns to climate.

Councilmember Tupacz asked about how other groups, such as farmers, may be considered in the vulnerability assessment process. Hank Love responded that those types of items can also be considered in the vulnerability assessment. Councilmember Tupacz further described the need to be able to communicate widely with many different groups within the county.

9. New Business

None.

10. Communications and Reports

A. Councilmembers

- a. November 9 Form Submission: carbon credit sales options for property owners (5 minutes)

Andrew DeLeeuw provided a summary of a request from a county resident for information about selling carbon credits, as well as the response provided.

- b. Cancellation of December 28, 2021 scheduled meeting (5 minutes)

Chair Ollson announced that the December 28 meeting would be cancelled because of the proximity to the holidays. And that the next scheduled meeting would be January 2, 2022.

B. Staff

a. Public Meeting Requirements after January 1, 2021 (10 minutes)

Andrew DeLeeuw provided an update on the ability of public bodies to meet remotely after December 31st, and that currently the open meetings act does not allow for remote meetings and remote participation after that date. Councilmember Morgan indicated that there may be certain groups which are not officially subject to the open meetings act who may be able to continue meeting remotely, but that it may require action by the County Board of Commissioners to allow such meetings.

Councilmember Shink indicated that they should follow up on the ability of the Environmental Council to meet remotely after the end of the year, and asked that Andrew DeLeeuw ask the question of Corporation Counsel.

C. Committees

None.

11. Tasks:

None.

12. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 6:25 PM

Approved by the Environmental Council on January 25, 2022

Minutes prepared by Andrew DeLeeuw,
Staff to the Environmental Council