

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, May 28, 2024. 5:00PM - 6:30PM
Remote Meeting via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/89127058352?pwd=pfBmKRmpFgTdCQSF9b8rFwdx8fmKjw.1>

Meeting ID: 891 2705 8352

Passcode: 591312

COUNCIL APPROVED MAY MINUTES

I.Call to Order - 5:02 PM

II.Attendance

- I. Present: Anne Brown, Michelle Deatruck, Andrea Pierce, Gay MacGregor, Kris Olsson, Avni Rao, Liz Ratzloff, Lauren Sargent, Benjamin VanGessel, Hudson Villeneuve
- II. Absent: Andrew Comai, Yousef Rabhi, Tim Redmond, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville

III.Land Acknowledgement

IV.Approval of the Agenda

- I. Moved by: Anne Brown
- II. Seconded by: Gay MacGregor
- III. Approved Unanimously

V.Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2024 Meeting

- I. Moved by: Avni Rao
- II. Seconded by: Gay MacGregor
- III. Approved Unanimously

VI.Public Comment/Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)

- I. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
 - I. Public Comment – all related to dark skies resolution
 - I. Rick Bunch, Ann Arbor Township
 - II. Heidi Trudeau, Ann Arbor Michigan
 - III. Kathy Gourlay, Lima Township
 - IV. Doug Jackson, Sylvan Township
 - V. Lynn Fae, Chelsea
- II. Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation

VII.Presentation:

- I. Presenter: Hudson Villeneuve, Senior Program Manager, Justice40 Accelerator, [Elevate](#)
- II. Presentation
- III. Council responses and discussion
 - I. How can the council help Justice 40?
 - II. Can you provide a short list of project categories for the Council to share?

- III.HV planned to send full list to the listserv by the end of the week
- IV. Council requests or instructions to Advisory and Recommendations Committee

VIII.Regular Business

- I. Washtenaw County Climate Action Plan & Sustainability/Resilience Office
 - I. Staffing Status. *Andrew DeLeeuw*, Deputy County Administrator
 - I. **Can't report that any specific name has been finalized. Andrew is**
still very hopeful, but he is not able to do that tonight. The time that has lapsed is a normal part of hiring for important roles at the County.

- II. Council Discussion

- II. Report and Resolutions from Advisory and Recommendations Committee

Resolution to allow scribal changes to all Council communications.

Whereas, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners utilizes post-meeting scribal changes to address non-substantive matters of grammar, punctuation, spelling and similar; and

Whereas, the Washtenaw County Environmental Council is an Advisory Council to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners; and

Whereas, Council meeting time is valuable and should be focused on substantive matters;

Therefore, Be it Resolved: The Washtenaw County Environmental Council understands and confirms that the Chair and County staff to the Council may make non-substantive scribal changes related to grammar, spelling, formatting, punctuation and similar matters after Council consideration to Resolutions, Minutes, Agenda, and other Council documents and communications; and
Resolved, Council Members should communicate any related concerns or suggested scribal corrections immediately after Council meetings to the Chair and to County staff to the Council.

- I. Moved by: Liz Ratzloff
 - II. Seconded by: Avni Rao
 - III. Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote
 - II. Resolution/Recommendations on M-23 Expansion
 - I. The chief concern that this resolution is addressed is no longer a concern since the Chair received an update from SEMCOG.
 - II. Vote to remove the resolution from consideration
 - I. Moved by: Gay MacGregor
 - IV. Seconded by: Kris Olsson
 - III. Approved by unanimous voice vote
 - III. Chair has a replacement resolution that allows the Chair to write a memo to the BOC supporting MDOT's assessment study: ***"The Washtenaw County Environmental Council authorizes the Council Chair to write a memo at a time deemed appropriate by the Chair to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, **expressing the Council's endorsement of the removal of lane expansion options from MDOT's Environmental Assessment study, supporting MDOT's emphasis on community connectivity, with public transit alternatives and improved bike- and pedestrian-*****

friendly connectivity, and including suggested language for a
Resolution for the BOC to express support for MDOT's new

purview for its study and for related public transit, bike- and pedestrian-friendly investments and policies.

- I. Moved by: Liz Ratzloff
 - II. Seconded by: Gay MacGregor
 - III. Approved by unanimous voice vote
- III. Resolution/Recommendations on Light Pollution
 - I. Moved by: Lauren Sargent
 - II. Seconded by: Kris Olsson
 - III. Discussion:
 - I. Suggestion of including a draft ordinance passed by the board.
 - I. AD: this would be a tremendous lift, and from understanding the County would not be able to enforce this, but we could provide guidance and technical support to municipalities.
 - II. Resilient Washtenaw plan lists providing model ordinance plans and guidance/standards for municipalities. This is something we should put a pin in to come back to once there is a Director of Resiliency office.
 - IV. Approved by unanimous voice vote
- IV. Funding resolution, authorizing the Chair to write a letter and recommendation to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners that unspent funds for the Resiliency Office staff be allocated to the Resiliency Office and to the Washtenaw County Environmental Council rather than being returned to the General Fund.
 - I. Moved by: Avni Rao
 - II. Seconded by: Kris Olsson
 - III. Approved by voice vote, one abstention.
- III. Chair's Report
 - I. Upcoming meeting topics, scheduling, in-person meeting
 - I. MDOT, EGLE presentations
 - II. In-person meeting proposal
 - I. Director of EGLE would like to present to the council in person, recommendation to make the September 2024 meeting in-person. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
 - II. Hoping to have presentations/conversations with local municipalities around the Climate Action Plan. Looking forward to having a director of the resiliency office.
 - I. Would like to have WATS present to the environmental council as they are currently doing a 2050 plan.

IX. New Business

X. Communications and Reports

- A. Councilmembers
- B. Staff
- C. Committees and Committee Reports

XI. Adjourn – 6:25 PM

Next Meetings

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Tuesday, July 23, 2024