

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

COUNCIL APPROVED FEBRUARY MINUTES

1. Call to Order by Chair Deatruck
 - 5:01 PM
2. Attendance
 - Present: Anne Brown, Andrew Comai, Michelle Deatruck, Gay MacGregor, Yousef Rabhi, Avni Rao, Tim Redmond, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville, Benjamin VanGessel, Hudson Villeneuve
 - Absent: Kris Olsson, Elizabeth Ratzloff
3. Approval of the Agenda
 - Moved by: Gay MacGregor
 - Seconded by: Avni Rao
 - Approved by: Unanimous Voice Vote
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. January 30, 2024
 - Moved by: Tim Redmond
 - Seconded by: Gay MacGregor
 - Approved by: Unanimous Voice Vote
5. Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
 - a. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
 - b. Acknowledgement of any written Citizen Participation
6. Presentation: Light Pollution, Biodiversity and Emissions.
 - a. *Presenters:* Dr. Sally Oey and John Mirsky, Michigan Dark Skies
 - i. Council Discussion/Q&A
 - Is it just visible light or are there other parts of the EM spectrum that is harmful?
 - Are there warm LEDs available that are energy efficient?
 - Strategy for approaching farmers on lighting?
 - Has dark skies identified any bad actors? AKA any large light emitters within the county that could be a good starting point for mitigation?
 - Do motion activated lights (presence sensing for pedestrians at cross walks) covered in any ANSI standards. Do these ANSI standards mesh with occupational safety standards?
 - Can you share any one pagers or informational materials with the outreach committee to share at events?
 - Council to send any other questions to Michelle.
7. Regular Business
 - a. Washtenaw County Climate Action Plan & Sustainability/Resilience Office
 - i. Staffing Status. *Andrew DeLeeuw*, Deputy County Administrator

- Currently in the middle of the hiring process for the positions. Great applicant pool and the hiring committee is exceptional.
- Extended posting to ensure that we had as many great candidates as possible. Wanted to make sure that the candidate pool was diverse.
- Should have another update by March, the process is moving fast.
- First position is resiliency officer, program manager will come next and the resiliency officer will have a role in hiring that person.
- ii. Council Discussion
 - Michelle is very impressed with the work Andrew has been doing to manage and move the interview process along.
- b. Council Membership: Open seats
 - i. Updates on applications for the two open seats: Water Protection, Renewable Energy Provider. *Andrew DeLeeuw*, Deputy County Administrator
 - Application Open seats extended until March 18th.
 - Shared link with WCEC in Chat- <https://www.washtenaw.org/3542/Apply-for-a-Board-Committee-or-Commissioner>
- c. Chair's Report: Proposed Upcoming Meeting Topics & Schedule
 - i. Chair will be asking Council approval for either the March or April meeting to be 2 hours if needed, with at least 10 days notice.
 - ii. March Council Officer Election Updates
 - In March and April the topics will include Washtenaw County Public Health on their updated pollution prevention work. They would like input and feedback.
 - Other topics to be considered are a presentation from SEMCOG on their climate action regional plan and its impact on Washtenaw County. MDOT is proposing a US-23 expansion, presentation on the impacts for Washtenaw County and resilient Washtenaw.
 - Chair makes motion to extend March or April meeting by 30 minutes to make the full meeting two hours.
 - o Moved by: Liz Ratzloff
 - o Seconded by: Avni Rao
 - o Discussion:
 - Commissioner Scott would like for the meeting to be March as she won't be at the April meeting.
 - o Approved by: Unanimous Voice Vote
 - Ben would like to include WATS in the SEMCOG meeting presentation.

8. New Business

- a. Bylaws Update Proposal. *Michelle Deatrick, WCEC Chair*
Chair will be asking for a motion to approve.
 - Moved by: Gay MacGregor
 - Seconded by: Katie Scott
 - Discussion:

- Article 8, Section 7: Commissioner Rabhi believes all meetings should take place in person and will be voting yes on these bylaws in WCEC but will not vote yes at the board meeting when this is on the agenda. This is consistent with his voting on other Commission bylaws.
- Approved by: Voice Vote with one abstention.

9. Communications and Reports

- 1) Councilmembers
- 2) Staff
- 3) Committees and Committee Reports
 - Visibility Committee
 1. First tabling event is March 10th at the Climate Teach-In. Tabling taking place 4:30 – 5:15 PM
 - (ii) Advisory and Recommendations Committee
 1. passed a resolution in the fall approving this committee which will take topics we engage with during meetings to make a set of recommendations to the County.
 2. Limited to four members for this committee
 3. The Chair is appointing 3 people right now, and if the bylaws change is approved by the BOC, Chair will be able to appoint more members.
 4. Appointees thus far: Gay MacGregor, Hudson Villeneuve (Chair)

10. Adjourn
6:31 PM

Next Meetings

Tuesday, March 26, 2024
Tuesday, April 23, 2024

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