

**WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL**

**April 23, 2019**

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

A session of the Environmental Council was held at the Washtenaw County Clerk/Register of Deeds in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on Tuesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.

The meeting was called to order by Michelle Deatruck at 5:03, when quorum had been reached.

**I. Attendance**

**Members Present:**

Michelle Deatruck

Anne Brown

Lisa Wozniak

Kris Olsson

Commissioner Jason Morgan

Commissioner Sue Shink

Gay MacGregor

Stephen Manville

Commissioner Andy LaBarre

Erin De Vries

Melissa Stults

**Members Absent:**

Mark Clevey

Melissa Stults

**Others Present:**

April Baranek

Michelle Billard

## **II. Approval of Agenda**

Lisa Wozniak, seconded by Sue Shink, moved that the agenda from April 23, 2019 be approved. Motion passed by voice vote.

## **III. Approval of Minutes from Past Meeting (3/26/19)**

Gay MacGregor, seconded by Stephen Manville, moved that minutes of the March 26, 2019 meeting of the Environmental Council be approved. Motion passed by voice vote.

## **IV. Public Participation**

Zaynab Elkolaly: Resident of Washtenaw County. Recently appointed to police oversight commission by AA Mayor Taylor. Condemning the movement against putting a youth on the committee. Likes that their as an emphasis on environmental quality.

## **V. Council Responses to Citizen Participation**

Commissioner Shink was unaware of the opposition to a youth person on the committee.

Michelle is fully in support of putting somebody of youth on the council

## **VI. Introductions of members who have not previously attended**

Missy Stults introduced herself to the council

## **VII. Bylaws Proposal**

- Michelle gave background on how the bylaws were proposed. Wants to be clear on what the council should be able to do. Drew on the bylaws of the Food Policy Council because they have a similar charge. Michelle sent original bylaws to Curtis Hedger for review and incorporated his comments.
- General discussion on how to start a discussion around the bylaws.
- Commissioner Morgan's view is that the council should be internally focused before it becomes more outward focused. Policy and internal looking body. Hope to narrow the focus.
- Lisa Wozniak posed a question for Commissioner's...Is it always the purview of the body to create their own bylaws? Commissioner LaBarre responded that generally the committees create the bylaws and the BOC approves them
- Missy Stults stated that this is a very important discussion and she is willing to compromise on focusing internally but there is still a huge problem outside
- Commissioner Shink stated looking internally and externally are not hindered by the bylaws. She does not see the Food Policy Council as being similar to the Environmental Council because the Food Policy Council was not created by the BOC, and the food policy council does not look internally into the organization. Her view is that this council was created to advise the BOC. There is a lot going on inside the organization already around environmental issues and this group should encourage the work of the county employees that is already happening.
- Gay Macgregor has sent emails to the council showing work being done by other counties. She believes we need to have a plan to make own operations better and to gain credibility.

- Michelle Billard – Bylaws should be clear and simple. They should be user-friendly and should adhere to the enabling document. The first version are a little excessive. You can always add to bylaws later, very difficult to remove items from bylaws. When they are more general there is more flexibility. Michelle believes that her edits allow the council to do all of the things that the council wants to do. Would be able create sub-committees if needed.
- Gay ask how should we define county operations. Agrees with Anne that there should be language on intergenerational injustice
- Gay said she would like to add a couple things back into the second version
- Commissioner Shink, seconded by Kris Olsson, moved to work through second version of bylaws proposed by Sue. Motion passed by voice vote.
- Gay MacGregor, seconded by Commissioner LaBarre, moved to add “prioritize environmental justice, and intergenerational justice related to the environment” to *Mission* section of bylaws. Motion passed by voice vote.
- Missy Stults, seconded by Sue Shink, motioned to add “emissions” into the *Vision* section of the bylaws. Motion passed by voice vote.
- Michelle Deatruck, seconded by Gay MacGregor, motioned to add second bullet “Reduce overall county contributions to climate change” back to *Mission* section of the bylaws. Motion passed by voice vote.
- Commissioner LaBarre, seconded by Kris Olsson, motioned to use final three paragraphs from original bylaws in Background section of the bylaws. Motion passed by voice vote.
- Missy Stults, seconded by Commissioner LaBarre, motioned to add “such as” to #3 in *Duties* section of the bylaws. Motion passed by voice vote.
- Commissioner Morgan, seconded by Kris Olsson, motioned to strike “when invited” from #3 in *Duties* section of the bylaws. Motion passed by voice vote.
- Michelle Deatruck, seconded by Kris Olsson, motioned to add “The creation of this Council shall in no way be interpreted as diminishing the role, responsibilities, or charge of any currently existing County board, commission, council, task force or committee” as #1 in *Duties* section of the bylaws.
- Commissioner Shink, seconded by Kris Olsson, motioned to add “The Commission or individual members shall not intrude into matters that are handled administratively by the County. Members of the Commission shall communicate with County staff through the Commission’s designated staff liaison/s on matters related to the Commission, unless otherwise authorized by the County administration, and shall follow applicable County administrative policies” as #2 in *Duties* section of the bylaws.

**VIII. New Business**

IX. Communications and Reports

a. Council Members

b. Staff

i. Zach will look into the listserv issues

ii. Zach will email the link of the Environmental Council webpage to the council

X. Public Comment (on General Items)

XI. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:02