

**WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL**

**May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

A session of the Environmental Council was held at the Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Michelle Deatrck at 5:04, when quorum had been reached.

**II. Attendance**

**Members Present:**

Chair Michelle Deatrck

Anne Brown

Lisa Wozniak

Kris Olsson

Commissioner Jason Morgan

Commissioner Sue Shink

Commissioner Andy LaBarre

Gay MacGregor

Stephen Manville

Erin De Vries

Melissa Stults

Vice Chair Mark Clevey

**III. Appointment of Commissioner LaBarre as Temporary Meeting Facilitator**

Michelle moved to have Commissioner LaBarre serve as facilitator for this meeting until the election of a new Chair.

Motion passed by voice vote.

Commissioner LaBarre took his seat as Meeting Facilitator.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

Mark Clevey motioned, seconded by Anne Brown, to approve the Agenda.

- a. Michelle Deatruck moved an amendment to the Agenda, which changed Approval of the Minutes to #5 and moved Election of the New Chair to #6, since a candidate for chair needed to leave early.
- b. Anne Brown seconded the amendment.
- c. Motion to amend the motion to approve the Agenda passed by voice vote

Motion to approve the Agenda passed by voice vote

**V. Public Participation**

Elizabeth LaPorte, from the University of Michigan's Graham Sustainability Institute, spoke about ways that students from the University of Michigan could work with the Environmental Council. She works with the Dow Sustainability Fellow Program.

**VI. Council Responses to Citizen Participation**

Commissioners Morgan and LaBarre, and Chair Deatruck, thanked Ms. LaPorte. Commissioner Sue Shink stated she supported the County working with groups from the University of Michigan.

**VII. Election of Interim Chair**

Chair Michelle Deatruck expressed that she regretfully needed to resign as Chair of the Environmental Council, as previously communicated to the Council and the Chair of the Board of Commissioners, due to other opportunities. She handed in her resignation to Commissioner Jason Morgan.

Andy LaBarre asked for nominations for a new chair of the Environmental Council.

Gay MacGregor moved, seconded by Michelle Deatruck, to nominate Kris Olsson as interim Chair of the Environmental Council.

Andy LaBarre asked for other nominations. There were none.

Kris Olsson asked for clarification of what "interim" meant. Michelle Deatruck explained that until the Council's Bylaws are approved by the Board of Commissioners, a permanent chair cannot be elected, and that at the first Council meeting after the Board of Commissioners approves Council Bylaws, an election of a permanent Chair and a permanent Vice Chair would be held. Those people will hold the office until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 per the Bylaws.

The motion to approve Kris Olsson as the Chair until election of a permanent chair passed unanimously by voice vote.

**VIII. Report: Council Membership Application Status**

Michelle Deatruck reported that the County has received 1 application for the open Sustainable Agriculture seat. She expressed her concern that the Council needs to work to increase racial diversity on the Council with filling future open seats, including considering and expanding

outreach methods. She said it was important to have a range of voices represented, and also to be in alignment with the Council's mission of environmental justice and the Board of Commissioner's goal of racial equity.

## **IX. Bylaws Proposal**

- a. Consideration of a motion to create the Council's Bylaws, which had been moved and tabled at the 4/23/19 meeting of the Council, was taken up again. Consideration of Draft Bylaws #2, which had been moved for consideration at the 4/23/19 meeting, and which had received several approved amendments and been tabled to this meeting, continued.
- b. Gay MacGregor shared a document (referred to here as Bylaws Document #3) with proposed resolutions to differences between Draft Bylaws #1 (proposed by Michelle Deatrick) and Draft Bylaws #2 (an amended version of Draft Bylaws #1 that was proposed by Sue Shink).
- c. Gay MacGregor moved, seconded by Jason Morgan, to accept article 5.3 from Bylaws Document #3. Passed unanimously by voice vote.

This added the following language to Article 5 (Duties): "Act in an advisory capacity, without regulatory or legislative authority, to County departments, committees, and the Board of Commissioners on environmental issues."

- d. Gay MacGregor moved, seconded by Jason Morgan, to add 6.1 from Bylaws Document #3. Passed unanimously by voice vote
- e. Gay MacGregor moved, seconded by Jason Morgan, to strike # 8, 9 and 10 from Draft Bylaws #1 under Membership. Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- f. Gay MacGregor moved, seconded by Sue Shink, to accept all of the deletions made in Draft Bylaws #2 to Draft Bylaws #1 in Section 7.1, under Duties of Officers. Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- g. Gay MacGregor moved, seconded by Mark Clevey, to add #3 from the Bylaws Document #3 to 7.1.c Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- h. Discussion of whether committees needed to be mentioned in the Bylaws ensued, as Draft Bylaws #2 struck the entire Committees article. Michelle Deatrick explained what Roberts' Rules of Order states and that it was important to include the ability to create committees, that Corporation Counsel had told her that language enabling creation of committees was necessary for the Council to be able to do so, and that standing committees should be specifically mentioned.

Gay MacGregor moved, seconded by Mark Clevey, to modify article 5 (Duties) #7 to read “create committees, including standing committees, to help conduct the work of the Environmental Council.” Passed unanimously by voice vote.

- i. Michelle Deatrick moved, seconded by Gay MacGregor, to amend Article 6 (Membership) to add two members to the Council, adding modified language from Draft Bylaws #1 to add a youth representative and also a labor representative (bringing the total membership on the Council to 15). Michelle explained that Corporation Counsel has suggested this language as a way to expedite addition of these members to the Council. Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- j. Gay MacGregor moved, seconded by Sue Shink, to replace the language in Article 8.7 (Meetings) with the language from Bylaws Document #3 for that section so that it reads “Members are expected to participate in person however, participating or voting by phone is permitted if an exceptional circumstance arises preventing in-person attendance.” Passed by voice vote, with one “Nay” by Mark Clevey.
- k. Gay MacGregor moved, seconded by Michelle Deatrick, to accept the deletion of the Ground Rules section in Draft Bylaws #1. Michelle Deatrick explained that this section was part of the Bylaws of both the County’s Food Policy Council and the Broadband Committee, and that was why it was included for the consideration of the Environmental Council, in Draft Bylaws #1. Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- l. Missy Stults moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to include the Ethics and Conflicts of Interest section from Draft Bylaws #1, which had been removed in Sue Shink’s Draft Bylaws #2, in the Bylaws of the Environmental Council. Discussion ensued, in which it was clarified that the ethics rules that apply to the Board of Commissioners do not apply to the Environmental Council, and that absent inclusion of an ethics section, there would be no ethics rules for the Council. Missy Stults expressed that it was important to have ethics guidelines.  
Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- m. Gay MacGregor moved, seconded by Andy LaBarre, to strike the second public comment from the section of the Bylaws that describes the usual meeting Agenda.  
Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- n. Erin De Vries moved, seconded by Sue Shink, to strike the term “agenda items” from the section of the Bylaws that describes the public comment part of the usual meeting Agenda.  
Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- o. Andy LaBarre moved, seconded by Gay MacGregor, to approve the fully amended Bylaws (which are attached and are a part of these Minutes). Passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **X. New Business:**

Gay MacGregor spoke about Climate Action Planning (CAP). Most CAPs are between 40-50 pages. Gay outlined all the steps that are important to developing a CAP. She stated that the Council needs to come up with strategies and see what strategies other people are using. Very few counties have come up with future inventories. Gay will be posting a planning document in an editable format.

Michelle Deatrack asked that the document clarify what are the next steps in creating a CAP.

Mark Clevey submitted his resignation from the Environmental Council.

Michelle Deatrack stated that Rick Bunch of MI-MAUI would like to come to an upcoming meeting to make a presentation, and that she will be passing his contact information on to the new Chair.

Andy LaBarre moved to designate Michelle Deatrack as the Chair Emeritus of the Environmental Council and to give her that title officially. Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. Commissioner LaBarre thanked Michelle for her work founding and launching the Council as both a Commissioner and its first Chair. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Chair Emeritus Deatrack thanked the Council for their work helping to found the Council and expressed that it was a pleasure working with them, and that she regretted that a new opportunity had made it impossible for her to continue as Chair. She expressed that she would work with the new Chair to ensure a smooth transition.

## **XI. Communications and Reports**

Sue Shink attended the Michigan Clean Energy Conference with County Office of Infrastructure Management staff Dave Shirley and April Baranek.

Michelle Deatrack shared that she is working to found the Democratic National Committee's first Environmental Council.

Erin DeVries spoke about a Sustainable Landscape discussion she was part of at a SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments) meeting.

## **XII. Adjourn**

Gay MacGregor moved to adjourn, seconded by Jason Morgan. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.