Washtenaw County Environmental Council

August 24, 2021
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Remote Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Olsson at 5:07 PM.

2. Attendance

Councilmembers Present: Kris Olsson (Ann Arbor Township), Jason Morgan (Ann Arbor), Sue Shink (Northfield Township), Tim Redmond (Scio Township) Andrew Comai (Southfield, Oakland County). Anne Brown (Ypsilanti) joined at 5:29 PM.

Councilmembers Absent: Gay Macgregor, Michelle Deatrick, Lisa Wozniak, Teresa Tupacz, Hallie Fox

Staff Present: Jason Fee, April Avigne, Crystal Campbell, and Andrew DeLeeuw

Others Present: Matt Naud, Resource Recycling Systems

There was no quorum following attendance. The Chair directed to move to the review of the Climate Action Plan proposal until quorum was reached.

3. Citizen Participation:

None.

4. Council Responses to Citizen Participation

None.

5. Regular Business

A. Climate Action Plan Project Recommendation and Resolution of Support

Andrew DeLeeuw provided a report to the Environmental Council regarding the request for proposal process carried out over the summer to select a vendor to complete a Washtenaw County Community and Organizational Climate Action Plan, presented Resource Recycling Systems as the preferred vendor chosen by the selection committee to do this project, and provided a summary of the proposal and approach proposed by Resource Recycling Systems. Matt Naud of Resource Recycling Systems
spoke to the proposal and the response from his organization. Councilmembers asked questions about the implementation of the project.

*Councilmember Brown joined at 5:29 and quorum was reached.*

Andrew DeLeeuw requested that the Environmental Council consider passing a resolution in support of the project, the selected vendor, and requesting that the Board of Commissioners consider, approve, and fund this project.

*Councilmember Redmond moved a resolution accepting and supporting the recommendation of the selection committee to select Resource Recycling Systems as the preferred vendor to complete the Washtenaw County Community and Organizational Climate Action Plan, and requesting that the County Board of Commissioners take action to approve and fund the project. Seconded by Councilmember Comai. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.*

Following this vote, the Chair asked to return the consideration of the Agenda and the Minutes now that quorum had been reached.

6. Approval of the Agenda

*Moved by Shink, Seconded Morgan. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.*

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. June 26, 2021

*Moved by Shink, Seconded Brown. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.*

Once the Agenda and Meetings were addressed the Council returned to the discussion of the proposed Climate Action Plan.

5. Regular Business (resumed)

B. Discussion of the role of the Environmental Council as Climate Action Plan steering committee

The council discussed the ways in which they would be engaging with the climate action planning process should it be approved by the Board, topics included outreach, technical support, the roles of staff support, and timelines. Matt Naud and Andrew DeLeeuw provided responses.

C. Amending the Environmental Council Bylaws

Bylaw amendments were presented for a second time, following their discussion at the June 26, 2021 meeting. Andrew DeLeeuw provided a summary of the proposed
changes, which would only redefine quorum as being updated to be the lesser of 51% or 5 appointed members. He then indicated that should the amendment be approved by the Council it would be sent to the Board of Commissioners for final approval.

*Moved by Brown, Seconded Redmond. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.*

8. New Business

None.

9. Communications and Reports

A. Councilmembers

a. Washtenaw Rescue Plan Update

Councilmember Shink provided an update on the Washtenaw Rescue Plan. She indicated that she would not sharing details at this time as not as more information needs to be shared with the other county commissioners. She shared the process by which the plan had been developed, that there had been significant community engagement, and that there was a focus on projects which are ready to proceed quickly. She indicated that the details would be published this coming Friday with the Board Packet. Councilmember Morgan asked that individuals with questions reach out.

B. Staff

a. LED Project Update:

Jason Fee provided a status report on the LED project previously discussed with the council. He reported that there had the previously selected vendor was no longer working on the project due to performance issues. He reported that the county will keep the project moving with other staffing, but will be reissuing the RFP in the coming weeks.

b. DTE Energy Manager

April Avigne provided a status report on the DTE Energy Manager project. She reported that the Energy Manager assigned to Washtenaw County is Devon George, and that he is working on a process to develop a list of energy efficiency projects with a payback period of 5 years or less, is also working on developing an energy efficiency operational handbook, and is able to provide assistance with DTE billing issues and rebates. Future work will include beginning an Energy Champion program at the County. April took questions from the council on how to get involved in this program and the opportunity for other entities to participate.

C. Committees

None.
10. Tasks:
None.

11. Adjourn

*Meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM*

Approved by the Environmental Council on October 26, 2021

Minutes prepared by Andrew DeLeeuw,
Staff Support to the Environmental Council