

01-18-23 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

PREPARED 11-18-22

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Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Conference Room on 10th floor of City Hall, 161 W Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Adoption of the Agenda

IV. Approval of the minutes for the 11-16-22 meeting.

V. Election of Officers

i. Chair

ii. Vice Chair

iii. Secretary

VI. Determination of 2023 Priority Issues

VII. Committee Assignments

VIII. 2023 Priority Issues Committee Discussions

IX. Revisions/Updates of Environmental Action Plan (EAP)

Link to Current EAP: <https://www.cityofjackson.org/DocumentCenter/View/9374/EAP---Updated-021622>

X. Old Business

XI. New Business

XII. Citizen Comments (3 minute limit)

XIII. Commissioner Comments

XIV. Next Meeting – Wednesday, 02-15-23 at 6:00pm

XV. Adjournment

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION 11-16-22 MEETING

MINUTES (PREPARED 11-18-22)

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Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Conference Room on 10th floor of City Hall, 161 W Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan

I. Call to Order *Chairperson Kazmier called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.*

II. Roll Call

Present: *Commissioner Will Forgrave (Sixth Ward Councilmember), Commissioner Kelsey Heck Wood (Vice Chairperson), Commissioner Jacob Inosencio, Commissioner Kevin Lund and Commissioner Kelli Kazmier (Chairperson).*

Absent: *Commissioner Jane Flores and Commissioner Chelsea Poole*

Staff: *Troy R White, City of Jackson Engineering*

Also Present: *None.*

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Inosencio and supported by Commissioner Heck Wood to adopt the agenda as presented was approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of 10-19-22 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Heck Wood and supported by Commissioner Forgrave to approve the minutes for the 10-19-22 meeting with the Roll Call amended to clarify that Commissioner Inosencio was absent was approved unanimously.

V. New Business

a) *Motion made by Commissioner Heck Wood and supported by Commissioner Inosencio to approve the 2023 Meeting Schedule as presented approved unanimously.*

VI. Old Business

a) *Grant Applications –NOAA Environmental Literacy Program Presentation*

Commissioner Kazmier made a presentation based on the attached slide show.

Discussion:

Commissioner Forgrave stated that the library is a potential community partner with experience with grant applications and administration.

Commissioner Inosencio related that Grow Jackson has managed the gardening program at the King Center.

Commissioner Inosencio suggested that the development of tree canopy may be more fundable than urban farming as it captures more carbon and is more quantifiable.

Commissioner Forgrave stated that there is a need for more info regarding an LED certification.

Commissioner Kazmier explained that LED may include city staff completing worksheets that are then reviewed and analyzed to make recommendations and comparisons with other communities and provide a map for future actionable items to reduce the City's environmental impact.

Commissioner Lund stated that the process is helpful to understand where improvements can be made.

Commissioner Kamier suggested that the Commission's experience with refuse collection and the figures generated by that work has help create an awareness. The process of generating data has value as it generates awareness and makes the information readily available for use in future grant applications.

Commissioner Kazmier stated that the issue of grant applications will be revisited in January 2023 when the commission does the annual issue prioritization and committee assignments.

VII. 2022 Action Items

a) *Refuse and Recycling Committee Report and Discussion*

Commissioner Kazmier stated that she is unaware of ward meetings or other movement on the issue. Commissioner Forgrave concurred.

b) *Sustainable Procurement*

This action item was previously tabled.

However, Commissioner Kazmier related that the USDA has a sustainable procurement program for their own use and for use by local agencies. Her initial impression based on a first quick read is that the program appears to be reasonable and not overbearing. The Commission could ask City Council to implement the USDA's program or a modified version thereof.

c) Urban Forestry Committee Report and Discussion

Commissioner Inosencio explained that he had drafted a memo regarding a forester or arborist position at the City. He explained that he would like the memo to be a launching pad for pursuing a Tree City USA designation. The Tree City USA designation is a recommendation contained within the Environmental Action Plan (EAP).

Commissioner Inosencio read the text of the proposed memo (attached). Motion made by Commissioner Heck Wood and supported by Commissioner Forgrave to approve the text and send to the City Manager was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Kazmier suggested that the pursuit of the Tree City USA designation be a priority for 2023.

Commissioner Kazmier then requested that all commissioners consider their priorities for the coming year and prepare for a discussion of priorities in January 2023.

VIII. Citizen Comments

Peter Bormuth gave comments regarding climate change, solarization of City facilities such as the water treatment plants and community centers, and the lack of consideration for the animals that resided in the trees removed from Mount Evergreen Cemetery. Mr. Bormuth also inquired of Commissioner Kazmier's opinions of certain Hillsdale College policies.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Flores provided written comments via email to Mr. White regarding her support for urban forestry, her observation that trees are being removed without a discernible effort to replace them and the need for a City arborist. She also suggested that the Commission give consideration to the Cascades lagoons and bee farming initiatives.

X. Next meeting

Motion made by Commissioner Inosencio and supported by Commissioner Kazmier to cancel the November 16, 2022 meeting and meet next in January according to the approved 2023 meeting schedule was approved unanimously.

XVI. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Heck Wood and supported by Commissioner Lund to adjourn approved unanimously. Meeting ended at 6:47 pm.

CITY OF JACKSON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

APPROVED 11-16-22

Meetings of the Environmental Commission will be conducted on the 10th floor of City Hall at 161 W Michigan Avenue. Meetings will commence at 6:00pm on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

NOAA Environmental Literacy Program

NOAA's Environmental Literacy Program (ELP) supports projects that both inspire and educate people to use Earth system science to increase ecosystem stewardship and resilience to extreme weather, climate change, and other environmental hazards (NOAA Education Strategic Plan, 2015–2035). In 2015, ELP grants shifted from focusing on climate change education to community resilience education.

Defining Resilience

The ELP acknowledges that the concept of resilience has been defined, researched, and debated across many academic disciplines, and has grown increasingly popular in recent years in research and policy discourse (Dubois and Krasny 2016; Meerow, Newell, and Stults 2016). For this theory of change, the definition of resilience used is the one put forth by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), “a capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, the economy, and the environment” (2020). It is important to note that this definition of resilience, like many others, is limited to a concept of “bouncing back” to a previous state that may be fundamentally unstable and unjust. In the theory of change that follows, this limitation has been attempted to be addressed by articulating an end goal that encompasses “bouncing forward”, that is, transforming to a more equitable and sustainable future state (Figure 1).

Proposal Summaries

These summaries fall into six thematic clusters:

1. Resilience to Extreme Weather, Climate Change, and Other Environmental Hazards;
2. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Education, Environmental Education, Social Studies Education, and Related Literacies;
3. Connecting Environmental Literacy and Social-Ecological Resilience;
4. Active Learning, Social Learning, and Co-Production of Knowledge;
5. Equitable Resilience and Climate Justice; and
6. Empowering Agents of Change.



Reducing extreme heat with drought-tolerant tree plantings

Aquarium: Visitors help restore wetlands to mitigate flooding

Sustainable design with green infrastructure

Healthy community

City Hall: Youth and adults present their ideas to officials

Sciences Center: Youth convene a Climate Summit

University: Researchers study resilience solutions

K-12 School: Teachers and students create a rain garden

Flood preparedness

Houses adapted to severe storms, flooding and rising sea levels

Healthy ocean ecosystem

Shoreline protection with restored oyster reefs

Students map resilience assets

Community members engage in citizen science



Applications Process

- Due to extremely high demand for these types of projects, our previous competition in 2020 solicited new projects from the Southern and Western regions of the country. The 2022 competition continued this approach, soliciting new projects from the Central and Eastern regions (Priority 1). There was also a solicitation open only to awardees from projects funded between 2015-2018 from this program (Priority 2).
- Priority 1 received 135 pre-applications submitted from 27 states, as well as the District of Columbia, with a total federal request of nearly \$68 million. Only 57 of the highest ranking pre-applications were authorized to submit full applications, and 49 did so.
- Priority 2 had a much smaller pool of potential applicants than Priority 1, and received 11 applications from nine different states, with a total federal request of more than \$5.3 million.

2022 Funded Applications

RECIPIENT	PROJECT	PRIMARY PROJECT LOCATION	AMOUNT
Carilion Medical Center	Building Heat Resilience in Southwestern Virginia through Education	Roanoke, VA	\$316,777
Solar One (CEC Stuyvesant Cove)	Newark Resilient Solar Initiative	Newark, NJ	\$499,994
Creation Justice Ministries (Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church, Inc.)	Participatory Education in Faith Communities for Climate Resilience	Coastal counties in NC, MD, and VA	\$375,206
Kettering University	Climate Resilient Flint: Building Community-Driven Climate Resilience through Hyperlocal Science-to-Civics Learning	Flint, MI	\$499,941
Manomet, Inc.	Brockton Kids Lead the Way: Enhancing Stewardship and Climate Resilience through Outdoor Education	Brockton, MA	\$483,173
Regents of the University of Colorado	HEART Force - Resilient Colorado	Rural counties in CO	\$500,000
F.H. Fauntery Community Enrichment Center (Rockson Community Development Corp)	Nothing Without Us: Building Environmental Literacy, Resilience, and Sustainability in DC through a Multi-Partner, Community-Led Approach	Washington, D.C.	\$499,999
Twin Cities Public Television, Inc.	Climate Youth Labs (CY-Labs): Elevating Youth Voices to Promote Climate Resilience	Minneapolis, MN; Red Lake Nation, MN; and rural communities in WI	\$498,664
We Stay/Nos Quedamos, Inc.	Nos Quedamos: Youth-led Activation of Community Climate Resilience Hubs in Melrose Commons	Bronx, NY	\$440,276

Completed Community Engagement Projects

- Public Library Association
 - Climate resilience/adaption
 - Adult programming from the climate resilience toolkit, etc.
- Arizona State University/Museum of Boston
 - Educational forum for K-12 educators

Completed Community Resilience Projects

- **Gulf of Maine Research Institute**
 - Sea rise/storm surge awareness
 - Interactive presentations
- **Science Museum of Virginia**
 - Cosmic climate cookbook, extreme event challenge, etc.
 - Special exhibits
- **Nisqually River Association**
 - Climate change in the Pacific
 - Training for K-12 teachers

City of Jackson Ideas (Potential Partners)

- Urban agriculture education (Grow Jackson, etc)
- Tree canopy survey and native species education (Dahlem Center)
- Training for local government on sustainable procurement/energy efficiency, participation in energy inventory for city buildings (LEED for cities)
- Developing youth climate/resilience ambassadors (Youth Council)
- Climate Resilience Exhibit (Ella Sharp)

Other Grants

- USDA

The screenshot shows the USDA website's navigation bar with links for HOME, TOPICS, OUR AGENCY, PRIORITIES, MEDIA, GLOSSARY, ASKUSDA, RECALLS, and CONTACT US. A search bar is located on the right. The main header features a cityscape image and the title "Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants". Below the header is a list of navigation links: Animals, Biotechnology, Broadband, Conservation, Coronavirus, Data, Disaster Resource Center, Farming, Food and Nutrition, and Forestry. A paragraph of text describes Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production (UAIP) competitive grants, which aim to expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, and citizens, and target areas of food access, education, and business start-up costs. A section titled "On This Page" includes links for Grant Types, Resources, Stories, and Grants News. The bottom of the page shows a mobile navigation bar with icons for home, search, and other functions.

USDA U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HOME TOPICS OUR AGENCY PRIORITIES MEDIA

GLOSSARY ASKUSDA RECALLS CONTACT US

Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants

Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production (UAIP) competitive grants initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access; education; business and start-up costs for new farmers; and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production.

On This Page

- [Grant Types](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Stories](#)
- [Grants News](#)

Other Grants

- Michigan DNR

Grant opportunities

Get assistance for tree planting, urban forest inventories, management plans and more.



Community Forestry Grants

Support urban forestry projects for local governments, schools and other organizations. [Applications under review.](#)

[Learn about Community Forestry Grants](#) >



DTE Energy Foundation tree planting grants

Increase the number of properly planted and maintained trees within DTE Energy's service territory. [Applications under review.](#)

[Learn about DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grants](#)

Other Grants

- USGBC

LEED

Apply for the 2022 cohort of the LEED for Cities Local Government Leadership Program



Photo credit: City of Cleveland.

Hilari Varnadore

Jan 06, 2022

4 minute read



Apply by March 9 to participate in the sustainability and equity accelerator.

Feature image: The City of Cleveland certified to LEED Silver in 2021 and was a member of the 2020 national cohort.

With support from Bank of America, USGBC is pleased to announce an open call for applications for the 2022 LEED for Cities Local Government Leadership Program. In addition to supporting a national cohort of U.S. cities, towns and counties committed to [LEED](#)

CITY OF JACKSON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

161 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, JACKSON, MICHIGAN 49201

November 16, 2022

City Manager and City Council
City of Jackson
161 W Michigan Avenue
Jackson, MI 49201

RE: City of Jackson Arborist

Dear City Manager and City Councilmembers:

The Environmental Commission is recommending the City Council and City Manager consider a staffing addition in the form of an ISA ([International Society of Arboriculture](#)) Certified Arborist.

An addition of an arborist to the staff in the City of Jackson can serve many purposes. These benefits include but are not limited to management of existing trees, environmentally responsible plans for new trees, and measurement of, and improvement to, our city canopy.

This step would allow Jackson to take a crucial step in applying for a ["Tree City USA Certification"](#), an award that is already bestowed on over 125 communities in Michigan. Other steps include establishing a Tree Ordinance, a tree management budgetary allocation, and celebrating Arbor Day. Responsibly and sustainably managing our community tree cover improves community temperatures, increases home energy efficiencies, improves water and air quality, and even raises property values.

Sincerely,



Kelli Kazmier
Environmental Commission Chair