

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION 01-18-23 MEETING

MINUTES (APPROVED 02-15-23)

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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 Chairperson Kazmier called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

II. Roll Call

Present: *Commissioner Jane Flores, Commissioner Kelsey Heck Wood, Commissioner Jacob Inosencio and Commissioner Kelli Kazmier.*

Absent: *Commissioner Will Forgrave (Sixth Ward Councilmember), Commissioner Kevin Lund.*

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

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Inosencio and seconded by Commissioner Flores to amend the agenda for Item IX (Revisions/Updates of Environmental Action Plan (EAP)) to be moved to in front of Item VI (Determination of 2023 Priority Issues). Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Inosencio and seconded by Commissioner Flores to approve the agenda as amended. Motion approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of 11-16-22 meeting minutes

Motion made to Commissioner Inosencio to approve the minutes with the following corrections:

1) Item VIII, Citizen Comments: Mr. Bormuth's comment requires correction to read that the subject trees were marked for removal but not actually removed.

2) Item X, Next Meeting: requires correction to show that the December meeting was cancelled (not the November meeting).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Heck Wood. Motion was approved with three yes votes, zero no votes and one abstention.

V. Election of Officers

i. Chair

Commissioner Heck Wood nominated Commissioner Kazmier to serve as chair. Commissioner Kazmier consented to serve. Commissioner Flores supported the nomination. Commissioner Kazmier was elected chair unanimously.

ii. Vice Chair

Commissioner Flores nominated Commissioner Heck Wood to serve as vice chair. Commissioner Heck Wood consented to serve. Commissioner Inosencio supported the nomination. Commissioner Heck Wood was elected vice chair unanimously.

iii. Secretary

Commissioner Kazmier nominated Mr. White to serve as Secretary. Mr. White consented to serve. Commissioner Inosencio supported the nomination. Mr. White was elected secretary unanimously.

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

Commissioner Kazmier suggested that discussions of the EAP be used to help determine priorities for 2023. She suggested that the process for this year follow that for last year – she will take notes for the update discussions and bring back text for an EAP amendment for approval by the Commission next month.

Commissioner Inosencio requested redlines of the proposed changes.

A question arose as to the need to revise the goals contained within the EAP to include numbers and metrics.

Commissioner Inosencio stated that numbers are necessary. Such as:

How much garbage does the City generate?

How many lead water services exist and what is the pace of replacement?

How much canopy cover do we have?

What are the City's CO₂ emissions?

What is the City's energy use?

Commissioner Inosencio then suggested that it may take time to determine current conditions, discuss goals and determine deliverables. Perhaps a year to collect data, a year after to develop a plan, and another year after to measure progress. The work may be of a quantity that a grant to fund it may be required.

Commissioner Kazmier suggested that the focus of 2023 be to gather data. She proposed that the Commission revisit at this time next year to do an inventory of collected data.

Commissioner Inosencio suggested that the Commission could advise the City to issue an RFQP for a study of those areas of concern.

Commissioner Kazmier suggested that the focus would have to be defined to those areas of most concern and that she could potentially support a grant request. She summarized discussion by stating that we need to know where we are currently to determine future goals.

Commissioner Kazmier volunteered to prepared EAP modifications for consideration by the Commission. She stated that she didn't see a need to change the organization of the document but accomplishments need to be updated.

There was discussion regarding each EAP chapter and revisions suggested. Commissioner Kazmier will make these revisions to the text and bring them back for Commission approval.

VI. Determination of 2023 Priority Issues

Commissioner Kazmier suggested selecting three priority issues – but it could be more or less.

Commissioner Heck Wood related that her preferred priorities are urban forestry and urban gardening.

Commissioner Flores related that her preferred priorities are pollinators and related vegetation, urban forestry and the Cascades lagoons.

Commissioner Inosencio related that his preferred priorities are energy efficiency and inventory, urban forestry, and pollinators and plantings.

Commissioner Kazmier related that her preferred priorities are urban forestry, urban pollinator gardens and land use.

After discussion, the following were selected by consensus to be the 2023 priority issues:

- 1) Urban forestry*
- 2) Land use for pollinators*
- 3) Energy efficiency and inventory*

VII. Committee Assignments

Commissioner Inosencio stated that as everyone on the Commission has an interest in all of the priority issues perhaps it would be better for all Commissioners to work on them together rather than in committees.

Commissioner Kazmier expressed support for the idea of not formalizing committees but rather using the regularly scheduled Commission meetings for work sessions. Perhaps at regular meetings, breakout meetings could be planed and scheduled for proper public notice on an “as-needed” basis.

Following discussion, it was agreed by consensus that there will be no committee assignments and work groups will be scheduled when needed.

VIII. 2023 Priority Issues Committee Discussions

As there are no committees, there was not committee discussions.

X. Old Business

None.

XI. New Business

None.

XII. Citizen Comments

Peter Bormuth of 142 W Pearl Street provided comments regarding the Cascades lagoons, solid waste management in Jackson County, millages, and cost-free energy audit options. He also commented that newly elected officials at the state level may make room for cities to govern.

XIII. Commissioner Comments

None.

XIV. Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 6:00pm

XV. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Heck Wood and seconded by Commissioner Inosencio to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:37 pm.