



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM

City Hall, 10th Floor Conference Room

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE 05-15-24 MEETING.**
 - A. Minutes of 05-15-24 meeting.
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Master Plan Development Impact
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
- 7. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

(3-Minute Limit)
- 8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
- 9. NEXT MEETING AT 6:00PM ON WEDNESDAY, 08-21-24**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

06-12-24 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

PREPARED 05-24-24

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Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024

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 05-15-24 meeting

V. Old Business

i. Master Plan Development Impact

<https://www.cityofjackson.org/DocumentCenter/View/4560/Jackson-Master-Plan?bidId=>

VI. New Business

VII. Citizen Comments (3 minute limit)

VIII. Commissioner Comments

IX. Next Meeting – Wednesday, 08-21-24 at 6:00pm

X. Adjournment

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION 05-15-24 MEETING

MINUTES (PREPARED 05-24-24)

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Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024

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 Kelsey Heck Wood
Commissioner Andrew Johnson
Commissioner Kelli Kazmier*

Absent: *Commissioner Jane Flores*

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

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Heck Wood and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the agenda as presented approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of the minutes for the 04-17-24 meeting

Motion made by Commissioner Heck Wood and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the minutes for the 04-17-24 meeting as presented approved unanimously.

V. Old Business

i. Environmental Action Plan

Commissioner Kazmier related that it was previously determined that the Commission's preference is for the EAP to be placed on City Council's agenda to be approved. The EAP will be put on agenda by Mr. White for the next available meeting.

VI. New Business

Commissioner Kazmier suggested that the Commission's next move should be to identify priority issues that are pressing concerns and make them the items that will be concentrated on and advocated for.

Commissioner Heck Wood suggested trees and forestry be chosen as a priority issue.

Commissioner Kazmier related that she had reviewed the USDA reforestation grant that has been obtained and is currently in process and how that relates to section 6A of the EAP. Kelli related that a Tree City USA application is part of the EAP.

There was discussion of utilizing the MLK Center to provide relief on days of extreme heat and poor air quality. The Code Red messaging system could be used to provide notice to residents and advise them that the King Center is open.

Commissioner Kazmier inquired whether the Commission would prefer to select smaller priority action items that are simpler to address or big-picture items.

Commissioner Johnson related his preference is to focus the transition to energy reduction and efficiencies.

Commissioner Kazmier recalled that an electric vehicle ordinance was drafted by former Mayor Dobies in 2021 which was remanded by Council to the Environmental Commission for consultation. The Environmental Commission tabled it.

There was discussion of advocating for solar as an energy source.

Commissioner Kazmier reminded the commissioners that solar opportunities is part of the Veregy energy audit and resulting project.

Commissioner Johnson reminded the commissioners that the Veregy energy audit is only applicable to city-owned properties.

Commissioner Kazmier suggested the Commission advocate for grant opportunities to subsidize home owner solar panel installations.

There was then discussion of a review of zoning restrictions that discourage solar panel installation.

Commissioner Heck Wood suggested that current state regulations discourage solar panel installations by prohibiting the sale of excess energy to the grid.

Commissioner Johnson discussed current conditions regarding solar panels and the balance between buying and selling energy.

Commissioner Kazmier suggested that rooftop installations are expensive and impact roof maintenance and property transactions.

There was discussion of issues that would be simpler to address. The following were listed:

- 1. Trees*
- 2. Air quality relief*
- 3. Solar ordinance review*
- 4. Pollinator gardens*
- 5. Involvement in zoning and planning.*

Commissioner Kazmier suggested that on-boarding city staff, residents and property owners is a challenge to moving these issues towards action and that the Commission needs to be judicious in what it advocates for so that staff time is considered and not wasted.

Commissioner Johnson discussed transforming communities by educating contractors and salesmen so that they are effective in selling and installing new technologies.

Commissioner Kazmier related that the City is entering a period of planning and development of a new Master Plan and that perhaps the Commission's biggest impact may be in advocating for environmentally sound zoning. The Environmental Commission could make recommendations that impact the new Master Plan and encourage the community to transition to greater density and greener transportation. The Commission could provide an environmental perspective to the new Master Plan.

Commissioner Kazmier asked if the Manager could be invited to give updates on the tree grant, Veregy energy audit and pollinator gardens and to discuss heat and air quality relief.

It was decided that the focus of action will be to impact the development of the new Master Plan. This action item will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

VII. Citizen Comments

Sam Kloos, First Street resident, stated that she has applied to be on the Environmental Commission but has not yet been appointed.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Kazmier reported that Welcome Home has been awarded a grant to study the feasibility of creating a network of growers and purveyors of locally grown and consumed produce.

Commissioner Kazmier suggested that the current Master Plan be reviewed. Commissioner Heck Wood suggested sections be assigned for review.

IX. Next Meeting – Wednesday, 06-12-24 at 6:00pm

X. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Heck Wood and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to adjourn approved unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:24 pm.