



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 21, 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 06-12-24 MEETING

A. Minutes of 06-12-24 meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Appointment of City Councilmember to Environmental Commission

B. Pollinator Gardens

C. Master Plan Development Impact

D. EAP to City Council

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

(3-Minute Limit)

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

9. NEXT MEETING AT 6:00PM ON WEDNESDAY, 09-18-24

10. ADJOURNMENT

08-21-24 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

PREPARED 07-05-24

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Date: Wednesday, 08-21-24

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 06-12-24 meeting

V. Old Business

i. Appointment of City Councilmember to Environmental Commission

ii. Pollinator Gardens

iii. Master Plan Development Impact – Master Plan to be revisited in 2028.

iv. EAP to City Council

VI. New Business

VII. Citizen Comments (3 minute limit)

VIII. Commissioner Comments

IX. Next Meeting – Wednesday, 09-18-24 at 6:00pm

X. Adjournment

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION 06-12-24 MEETING

MINUTES (PREPARED 07-05-24)

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

II. Roll Call

Present: *Commissioner Jane Flores
Commissioner Kelsey Heck Wood
Commissioner Andrew Johnson
Commissioner Kelli Kazmier
Commissioner Samantha Kloos*

Absent: *None*

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

III. Adoption of the Agenda

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

IV. Approval of the minutes for the 05-15-24 meeting

Motion made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Kazmier to approve the minutes for the 05-15-24 meeting as presented approved unanimously.

V. Old Business

i. Environmental Action Plan

Commissioner Kazmier summarized previous discussions with the following being the priorities for action now that work to update and expand the EAP is complete:

- a) appointment of a City Councilmember to the Environmental Commission*
- b) planting of pollinator gardens*
- c) participate and impact the development of the City's Master Plan*
- d) approval of EAP by City Council*

Discussion on each of these four items proceeded as follows:

- a) *Commissioner Kazmier suggested that the Commission concentrate on having a City Councilmember appointed to the Commission.*
- b) *No discussion.*
- c) *Mr. White obtained the following info regarding the Master Plan from Chris Atkin, the City's Planning Director:*

At least every 5 years after adoption of a Master Plan, the Planning Commission must review the Master Plan and determine whether to commence the procedure to amend the Master Plan or adopt a new Master Plan. In 2023, the Planning Commission reviewed the 2016 Master Plan and, except for updating with 2020 census data, determined the plan remains relevant and no updates were necessary.

At this time, there is no action in process for the Master Plan. The Master Plan will not be revisited and/or reviewed until 2028.

- d) *Mr. White will provide notice to the Chairperson Kazmier when the EAP will be put on City Council's agenda for approval.*

VI. New Business

Commissioner Kazmier related that she attended an event at Jackson High School that was part of a program that is funded by a grant from Eastern Michigan University (EMU) to teach high school students how local government works and how to impact local government decisions. In the spring semester, students did research and generated a presentation for an advocacy project.

Commissioner Kazmier related that she met Jason Frenzel from the Huron Valley Watershed Council. Mr. Frenzel provided Commissioner Kazmier links to the Huron Valley watershed management program and worksheets and lists for what should be included in a Master Plan.

Commissioner Kazmier suggested the weaving the priorities outlined in the EAP into the Master Plan would be key to effective advocacy. Commissioner Johnson related that incorporating environmental concerns into the Master Plan will take getting planners to see environmental opportunities while being respectful of costs.

Commissioner Kazmier inquired whether the current Master Plan should be explored and researched prior to the Commission meeting in August.

Commissioner Flores responded in the affirmative – especially those sections that have a strong environmental component.

Commissioner Kazmier related that she will research peer community Master Plans and send info from the Huron Valley Watershed Council and the 2016 Master Plan.

Commissioner Johnson inquired about the list that was generated at the previous Commission meeting.

Commissioner Kazmier replied that the four items (trees, air quality relief, solar ordinance review and pollinator gardens) may best be dealt with at the City Manager level who is scheduled to attend the August Commission meeting.

Commission Johnson related he researched an app that helps contractors and consumers transition to heat pumps – how to capture credits, how to select and install heat pumps, etc.

Commissioner Johnson suggested the City pursue a program to encourage heat pump transition. One of the biggest impediments is the onerous process to obtain tax credits. A first step would be to identify manufacturers and associated reps to understand if heat pumps are available in our area.

Commissioner Kloos inquired about trade in values for gas furnaces.

Commissioner Johnson replied that there typically is not a trade in value for old gas furnaces because typically a building owner is only looking for replacement options because the furnace they have has failed.

Commissioner Kazmier related that a concern to come out of student presentations at Jackson High School is the vast impervious area and associated quantity of runoff from the Jackson High School property. Student presented ideas regarding the installation of rain gardens to reduce the impact.

Commissioner Kazmier inquired about the relationship between the City and JPS. Mr. White replied that local agencies do not regulate schools or do permitting or inspections for schools. Regulating and permitting for schools is done by the State of Michigan.

VII. Citizen Comments

None.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

None.

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

X. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Flores to adjourn approved unanimously. Meeting ended at 6:47 pm.