



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM

10th Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 161 W Michigan Avenue

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of 10-18-23 meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2024 Meeting Schedule

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. EAP Expansion to address Mayor's Sustainability Request

7. PRIORITY ISSUES (DISCUSSION)

A. Urban Forestry

B. Land Use / Pollinators

C. Energy Efficiency and Inventory

8. CITIZEN COMMENTS

(3-Minute Limit)

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

10. ADJOURNMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION 10-18-23 MEETING

MINUTES (PREPARED 10-26-23)

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Date: Wednesday, October 25, 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 6:06 pm.*

II. Roll Call

Present: *Commissioner Jane Flores
Commissioner Kelsey Heck Wood
Commissioner Jacob Inosencio
Commissioner Andrew Johnson
Commissioner Kelli Kazmier (Chair)*

Absent: *Commissioner Will Forgrave (Sixth Ward Councilmember)
Commissioner Conner Wood (Planning Commission Commissioner)*

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

III. Adoption of the Agenda

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

IV. Approval of the minutes for the 09-20-23 meeting

Motion made by Commissioner Inosencio and seconded by Commissioner Heck Wood to approve the minutes for the 09-20-23 meeting as presented approved unanimously.

V. New Business

None.

VI. Old Business

a) Evaluation of Environmental Action Plan (EAP)

Commissioner Inosencio expressed that the process used at the last meeting worked well, that most of his priorities for the new EAP had been addressed in the resulting outline and that no glaring omissions remained.

Commissioner Johnson related that he had reviewed Kalamazoo's EAP and found it very detailed and well thought out. He related that it the product of a large community network with significant funding. He expressed that more resources would be needed for Jackson to generate a document at that level.

Commissioner Kazmier expressed that the level achieved by Kalamazoo is more than can be reasonably expected from a commission of volunteers and that the Commission needs to keep ambitions reasonable for Jackson.

Commissioner Inosencio stated that Jackson does not need to be Kalamazoo – the Jackson can have an EAP that fits Jackson. He related that the eight identified categories is reasonable, is not deficient and better than Jackson has had to date. Metrics need to be determined that show Jackson's current baseline conditions for each category, what are reasonable goals and how progress is measured.

Commissioner Inosencio stated that the Commission's outline for a new EAP is good. He stated that the currently EAP has nice narrative but is without teeth and metrics.

Commissioner Flores concurred with Commission Inosencio that the outline of the new EAP is good and that the narrative needs to be filled in.

Commissioner Inosencio suggested that baselines be set now and, if necessary, expanded in the future.

Commissioner Kazmier inquired as to how metrics are determined.

Commissioner Inosencio related that current numbers can be determined for water loss and tree canopy. Energy efficiency numbers can come from the Veregy study. Info can also be requested from JATA and Consumers Energy. He stated that solid water numbers were previously determined but the likelihood of moving to a single hauler system is not high at this time.

Commissioner Johnson suggested that the Commission start action on those initiatives already in motion and then identify those initiatives that need to be resourced.

Commissioner Inosencio related that the City Manager has been receptive to earlier initiatives and taken action – pursuit of the Urban Forestry grant and energy audit by Veregy are examples. He then suggested that Commissioners work on those sections of the framework that align with their priorities.

Commissioner Kazmier stated that she is relieved that Commissioner Inosencio will assist with writing.

Commissioner Inosencio related that an outline already exists and a paragraph needs to be generated to fill out each section of the outline. Each paragraph should state the goal, the proposed action and how to measure progress. He then inquired whether the revised EAP would be submitted to City Council. He also inquired if this is to first major overhaul of the original EAP.

Commissioner Kazmier replied that the EAP has previously been updated to reflect annual accomplishments but this is the first overhaul of the structure and text.

Commissioner Heck Wood related that the current EAP is a founding document generated by a newly formed commission. Now that there is experience and better understanding, the Commission wants an EAP that has actionable and measurable.

Commissioner Johnson related that pollinator gardens and urban forestry and energy audit are initiatives that have been put into motion.

Commissioner Kazmier asked whether the Commission wants goals relative to this plan determined between now and January when Commissioner Inosencio will have time to draft text.

Commission Johnson suggested that each Commissioner work on that portion of the outline that they are most passionate about. Commissioner Johnson volunteered to work on water resources.

Commissioner Kazmier volunteered for solid waste management.

Commissioner Inosencio related that Peter Bormuth has suggested to him that the Commission take action to rescind support for a single hauler system. Commissioner Inosencio stated that what may be good policy is not popular policy.

Commissioner Kazmier suggested that the current solid waste management system does not provide environmental justice.

Commissioner Inosencio responded that he is only bring up what has been brought to him.

Commissioner Johnson stated that he was not aware that the issue is so contentious and asked it is a big issue outside of the walls of City Hall.

Commissioner Heck Wood stated that the Commission is not current doing anything on that issue nor is the Commission asking to do anything.

Commissioner Inosencio stated that Commissioners can pick those sections they choose and he will work on the remainder.

It was then determined that each section will be addressed as follows:

<i>Water and Transportation</i>	<i>Commissioner Johnson</i>
<i>Weather and Air</i>	<i>Commissioner Heck Wood</i>
<i>Environmental Justice</i>	<i>Commissioners Flores and Inosencio</i>
<i>Energy</i>	<i>Commissioners Inosencio and Johnson</i>
<i>Solid Waste</i>	<i>Commissioner Kazmier</i>
<i>Ecosystems</i>	<i>Commissioners Heck Wood, Inosencio and Kazmier</i>

The goal will be to generate draft text for the January 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Johnson related that Google offers a free service for environmental metrics that allows for the compilation and display of data related to our community.

VII. 2023 Priority Issues

- a) Urban Forestry
- b) Land Use and Pollinators
- c) Energy Efficiency and Inventory

Commissioner Kazmier related these issues have been taken up by City staff and no information regarding progress has been received.

Motion made by Commissioner Inosencio and seconded by Commissioner Flores to cancel the 12-13-23 meeting approved unanimously.

Commissioner Kazmier related that January is typically when the new year's priority issues and commissioner assignments are determined.

Commissioner Inosencio suggested that paragraphs to fill in the new EAP outline be written and brought to the January 2024 meeting so they can be proofed and finalized in February 2024 and presented to the Mayor and City Manager in March 2024.

Commissioner Kazmier stated that, at a minimum, the revised EAP needs to be sent to City Council.

Commissioner Heck Wood related that perhaps it can be put on the agenda to be received by City Council.

Commissioner Johnson inquired about progress on pollinator garden installation.

Commissioner Inosencio replied that he has discussed the purchase of seed and the planting schedule with the City Manager.

VIII. Citizen Comments

Peter Bormuth of 142 W Pearl Street spoke regarding 1) progress on the Veregy energy audit, 2) the newly planted daffodil garden at Sharp Park, 3) and the impacts of moving to a single hauler for refuse collection.

IX. Commissioner Comments

None.

X. Next Meeting – Wednesday, 11-15-23 at 6:00pm

XI. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Heck Wood and seconded by Commissioner Inosencio to adjourn approved unanimously. Meeting ended at 6:52 pm.

CITY OF JACKSON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

PREPARED 10-27-23 (NOT APPROVED)

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 17, 2024

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Wednesday, November 20, 2024