

City Of Birmingham
Regular Meeting Of The Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee
March 11, 2024

City Commission Room
151 Martin Street, Birmingham, Michigan

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee held on March 11, 2024. The meeting was convened at 6:00 p.m.

1) Roll Call

Present: Harvey Bell, Lara Edwards, Rachna Gulati, Debra Horner, Jess Newman, Danielle Todd (arrived 6:20 p.m.); Student Representatives Josie Carroll, Will Clemans

Absent: Lois DeBacker, Joe Mercurio, Dani Torcolacci

Staff: City Planner Blizinski; Planning Director Dupuis, Department of Public Services Director Zielinski

The AHESC welcomed the student representatives.

2) Review of the Agenda

3) Approval of the AHESC Minutes of January 29, 2024

Motion by Mr. Bell

Seconded by Ms. Horner to approve the minutes of the regular Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting of January 29, 2024.

Motion carried, 5-0

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Bell, Horner, Edwards, Newman, Gulati

Nays: None

4) Study Session

A. SCAP Draft Intro and Outline

PD Dupuis and CP Blizinski introduced the item. Staff answered questions from the AHESC.

AHESC members' comments were as follows:

- Air quality should be included in the objectives. Rain gardens would reduce the amount of flooding experienced by residents. The phrase 'nature-based solutions' could use clarification. Decarbonization should be a priority. Offering free electric vehicle charging in the downtown area could encourage shopping in Birmingham and the use of electric vehicles.
- Air quality should be included in the quality of life section instead of in the objectives section. Optimizing vehicle trips would be important.
- The Plan Development and Emissions sections should be moved below the Action Plan.

- The public engagement summary could include more of the data collected.
- Finding a way to compare Birmingham’s plan to other referenced plans would be helpful.
- Clarifying sustainability commitments extant in other Birmingham plans would be helpful.
- The objectives should be represented in a way that does not indicate prioritization.
- The potential roles of businesses and individuals in community sustainability should be clarified.
- Using this process to look for opportunities to partner with the school system and neighboring communities as appropriate would be beneficial.
- There should be a next steps and recommendations section. There should also be a section demonstrating how the proposed actions would meaningfully impact the climate problems being faced.
- It should be emphasized that sustainable solutions also result in cost savings and other benefits wherever possible.
- Adding solar cells across the City would cost-effectively expand capacity.
- The next steps section should potentially include a consultant-run public education and information campaign.

5) Open to the Public for Items Not on the Agenda

6) Miscellaneous Communications

A. GHGI Update

CP Blizinski summarized the update. Staff answered questions from the AHESC.

B. Updated Project Schedule

CP Blizinski summarized the schedule. Staff answered questions from the AHESC.

AHESC members’ comments were as follows:

- The survey draft should be provided to the AHESC in advance so feedback can be provided to staff.
- The survey should aim to reveal actionable goals beyond the GHGI.

7) Draft Agenda

8) Adjournment

No further business being evident, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.



Leah Blizinski, City Planner



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist