

City Of Birmingham
Regular Meeting Of The Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee
May 29, 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 May 29, 2024. The meeting was convened at 6:00 p.m.

1) Roll Call

Present: Harvey Bell, Lara Edwards, Debra Horner, Jess Newman, Dani Torcolacci; Student Representative Josie Carroll

Absent: Lois DeBacker, Rachna Gulati, Joe Mercurio, Danielle Todd; Student Representative Will Clemans

Staff: City Planner Blizinski; Planning Director Dupuis

2) Review of the Agenda

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

Motion by Mr. Bell

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

Motion carried, 5-0

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Bell, Horner, Edwards, Newman, Torcolacci

Nays: None

4) Study Session

A. SCAP Draft

PD Dupuis and CP Blizinski presented the item and answered informational questions from the AHESC.

AHESC member comments on the item were as follows:

- Including publicly accessible measurement and monitoring options would be beneficial.
- Removing barriers to food production in residential zones was an exciting concept.
- It should be specified that adding sufficient rain barrels and rain gardens could result in a reduction or elimination of flooding in basements in the City.
- It would also be helpful to know how many gallons of water leave the City combined sewer system when considering an inch of rain per hour. Reducing that amount could help reduce the City's costs.
- 100,000 gallons of water and stormwater infiltration or capture was a low bar. One good-sized rain gallon can infiltrate or capture about 30,000 gallons of water a year. A small

front-yard garden could capture between 1,000 and 8,000 gallons of water every rain event. Grant guidelines could likely offer more reasonable figures for calculations.

- During a recent rain event where 2.5 inches of rain fell in 24 hours, a one-acre rain garden captured about 67,000 gallons of water.
- Green infrastructure installations in public infrastructure and development projects should be required via ordinance.
- In terms of return-on-investment, focusing on issues where the City would not be duplicating the efforts of other actors would be prudent.
- Adding solar panels, batteries, and electric vehicles to the municipal fleet as extensively as possible would likely yield cash-positive results over time.
- It would likely be helpful to include information on each recommendation's costs, potential savings, and other benefits whenever possible.
- Residential natural gas is the greatest source of greenhouse gasses in the City. Minneapolis has put out standards for increased building efficiency within the city. It would be appropriate to determine whether that is an option for Birmingham. If building efficiency standards are determined at the state level, it would be appropriate for Birmingham to advocate for stricter standards.
- The image on the emissions page was an improvement over the prior image.
- It would help if more of the figures in the SCAP could more information to aid in contextualization. For instance, it would be helpful to know what percent of City property 450 acres would represent, or to clarify how to conceptualize 100,000 gallons of water.
- Adding a section to the SCAP where the multi-modal recommendations are briefly stated would be helpful. If the Multi-Modal Plan does not have measurable goals to guide implementation of the Multi-Modal Plan, that may need to be addressed.
- More information about Woodward should be included. It would be useful to understand how many vehicle miles and emissions come from Woodward. Woodward represents a significant environmental and quality of life issue within the City.
- Including goals relevant to Woodward within the SCAP could represent an easy win since the City has already done a significant amount of work on the topic.
- It would be appropriate to support the Multi-Modal Transportation Board updating its Plan and developing a comprehensive bicycle plan for the City. Improvements to multi-modal transit in the City helps reduce emissions.
- The introduction should include a section on including businesses in this process, making note of the City's business contacts, the partnerships that could be built, and other opportunities.

B. GHGI, Community Comparison, SEMCOG GHGI, Forecasts

CP Blizinski and PD Dupuis presented the item and answered informational questions from the AHESC.

AHESC member comments on the item were as follows:

- Using forecasting and modeling to show how the City will be able to meet its own goals even without state reductions will be necessary.
- The goals thus far may not get the City to its own goals without state reductions.
- More effort needs to be put into reducing residential greenhouse gas emissions. Incentives may be useful.

- Continuing to update this will be helpful.
- The community comparison was helpful.

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

6) Miscellaneous Communications

Staff provided updates on various communications.

AHESC member comments were as follows:

- A resident raised concerns about tree rating and removal policies in the City. Those concerns will be shared with staff.
- Getting an article written about the second survey would be helpful.

A. Updated Project Schedule

CP Blizinski presented the item.

7) Draft Agenda

8) Adjournment

No further business being evident, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.



Leah Blizinski, City Planner

Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist