

**City Of Birmingham**  
**Regular Meeting Of The Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee**  
**June 17, 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 June 17, 2024. The meeting convened at 6:10 p.m.

**1) Roll Call**

**Present:** Harvey Bell, Lois DeBacker (joined 6:55 p.m.), Rachna Gulati, Joe Mercurio, Jess Newman, Danielle Todd; Student Representative Josie Carroll

**Absent:** Lara Edwards, Debra Horner, Dani Torcolacci; Student Representative Will Clemans

**Staff:** City Planner Blizinski; Planning Intern Aldred, Planning Director Dupuis, Assistant City Manager Fairbairn (joined 6:23 p.m.)

**2) Review of the Agenda**

**3) Approval of the AHESC Minutes of May 29, 2024**

**Motion by Mr. Mercurio**

**Seconded by Mr. Bell to approve the minutes of the regular Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting of May 29, 2024.**

**Motion carried, 5-0**

**VOICE VOTE**

Yeas: Bell, Gulati, Mercurio, Newman, Todd

Nays: None

**4) Study Session**

**A. SCAP Draft**

Staff solicited feedback on the item and answered informational questions from the AHESC.

AHESC member comments on the item were as follows:

- It would be helpful to know whether staff intended to integrate certain topics from the May 29, 2024 discussion, including residential and municipal natural gas use reductions, the sustainability-related goals from the Multi-Modal and Woodward plans, and a section on the business context.
- Including a brief explanation of why each goal was set could be helpful.
- Measuring progress towards the stormwater goals may be challenging. Attempting to over-achieve on the sub-goals will make it more likely that each goal might be achieved.
- Clarifying the implementation process for each goal will be beneficial.

- Adding stormwater and energy consumption goals to page six of the plan would be beneficial.
- Pervious surface increases may not belong on page six with the carbon neutrality goals, in terms of significance.
- Emphasizing planned improvements to stormwater runoff management will show residents that the AHESC understood residents' concerns. The plan could include a functional decomposition of the goal of reducing flooded basements.
- It should be written in the plan that reducing the load on the combined sewer system would help reduce flooded basements. This would make it clear to residents that their concerns were heard and prioritized.
- Page six could have two boxes that showcase, first, the plan's topline carbon commitment, and second, the plan's topline resilience commitment, which might be demonstrated by reductions in the stormwater system load.
- For the charts on pages eight through 12, clarifying the 'Initial Cost' concept would be helpful.
- It might be more appropriate to change the 'GHG Reduction' column to a 'Benefits' column.
- If residents receive further encouragement to report flooding to the City, that data could be helpful in tracking the success of reducing basement flooding over time. The City's website could have a page for receiving those reports.
- The charts presently on pages eight to 12 should be formatted in a way that highlights their significance as part of the overall plan. It might be helpful to put each chart on a separate page.
- If each chart on pages eight to 12 is put on a separate page, it could be valuable to add a relevant photo next to each chart.
- In the waste section, source reduction of all waste should be added as an action.
- Residential energy use is the most significant contributor to GHG emissions in Birmingham. It should be determined which listed actions would produce the most climate benefit, and how the City can best motivate residential partners in the plan to join in working towards those goals.
- The plan could include a section on the most impactful actions a citizen-leader could take.
- There are immediate steps that residential households could take to reduce their natural gas usage to almost zero, such as the installation of heat pumps. The plan could also identify possible sources for funding assistance.
- A marketing budget should be included as part of the plan. This would include an education campaign, and incentives such as a recognition program.
- The buildings and facilities section should include an action for reducing residential electric and natural gas consumption.
- The senior center building should be a resilience hub that is net zero or net positive and has no natural gas usage. The first bullet point on page 81 of the plan should indicate that goal. If the City wants to lead in terms of sustainability, this would be a necessity.

Two AHESC members noted that they would email additional comments to staff for integration.

**5) Open to the Public for Items Not on the Agenda**  
**6) Miscellaneous Communications**

Staff summarized the communications and answered informational questions from the AHESC.

The Chair said that once the draft plan was complete, she would assist staff in assigning each AHESC member a section of the plan to review in depth.

- A. Updated Project Schedule**
- B. Public Engagement Phase 3**

- 7) Draft Agenda**
- 8) Adjournment**

No further business being evident, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.



Leah Blizinski, City Planner



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist

APPROVED