

**City Of Birmingham**  
**Regular Meeting Of The Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee**  
**August 19, 2024**  
Commission Room  
151 Martin Street, Birmingham, Michigan

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee held on August 19, 2024. The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

**1) Roll Call**

**Present:** Harvey Bell, Lois DeBacker, Lara Edwards (arrived 6:15 p.m.), Rachna Gulati (arrived 6:15 p.m., left 7:28 p.m.), Debra Horner, Jess Newman; Student Representatives Josie Carroll, Will Clemans

**Absent:** Danielle Todd, Dani Torcolacci

**Staff:** Planning Director Dupuis

**2) Review of the Agenda**

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

To be reviewed at the September 16, 2024 meeting.

**4) Study Session**

**A. SCAP Final Draft**

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

AHESC member comments were as follows:

- Anything that residents could do to contribute to sustainability in the City business owners could do as well.
- The Plan should suggest exploring ways of reducing City staff commute times, which could include hybrid remote and in-office work, a workweek consisting of four ten-hour days, or other options.
- The Plan should also be sent to the City's Advisory Parking Committee, Michigan Green communities, the City of Ann Arbor, SOCWA, SOCCRA, GLWA, and EGLE.
- Staff's recommendation to retain the Quality of Life section was acceptable.
- It is essential to emphasize throughout the Plan that the success of the Plan depends on resident engagement.
- The Plan should clearly recommend the building out of a comprehensive marketing and engagement strategy.
- The introduction and the conclusion should both emphasize the need for resident participation, and the conclusion should include a call to action.
- BF-9 and BF-10 should be located further up the list in the Buildings and Facilities section.
- A recommendation should be added for a feasibility study around the highest impact intervention areas for stormwater. The study should also recommend a measurement system for determining progress. This study would allow the City to partner with

businesses and residents in targeted areas to make improvements that would benefit the City more broadly.

- The stormwater section could benefit from more aggressive actions, including the reduction of impervious surfaces, mandatory retention of stormwater on-site, and the strategic locations of stormwater infrastructure. Some of the language could also be changed from 'incentivize' to 'require'.
- It is necessary to determine what is contributing to the flooding in different areas of the City.
- Many residents near the Rouge River are interested in implementing solutions that would help reduce flooding in the area, and these efforts would also benefit from City guidance and funding.
- Residents are very concerned about stormwater issues, and the Plan could make a recommendation for a stormwater outreach specialist in addition to a sustainability coordinator. The stormwater outreach specialist would serve as something akin to a case manager on the topic.
- It would be valuable to require an audit of the drainage plans for new residential builds.
- Ann Arbor now requires houses being sold to include a Home Energy Rating Disclosure (HERD). This often encourages homeowners to implement energy efficiency upgrades to their homes because higher HERD scores result in higher home values. The City could consider a similar requirement.
- The stormwater study and community engagement program should be added to the Action Plan.
- A timetable for achieving certain key goals should be included so that measurable progress can be made on the way to 2035. The key goals should include items that provide the basis for other items and items likely to yield significant results.
- Briefly clarifying why certain items are described as 'moderate' or 'substantial' benefits would be helpful. 'Small' should be replaced, possibly with 'modest'.
- The Plan should clarify, in a couple of sentences, why this Plan would benefit from a refreshed Multi-Modal Transportation Plan. T-8 should also be moved to become T-3 under the Transportation section.
- It may be worth considering recommending the reduction or elimination of parking requirements. It may also be worth exploring installing and promoting the use of electric vehicle charging stations to attract more electric vehicle drivers to shop and dine in Birmingham.
- Replacing driveways with pervious pavement could be suggested under the 'What can I do as an Individual' section.

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

**6) Miscellaneous Communications**

**A. Public Comment**

**B. Project Timeline**

**7) Draft Agenda**

**8) Adjournment**

No further business being evident, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.



Leah Blizinski, City Planner



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist

APPROVED