

City Of Birmingham
Regular Meeting Of The Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee
Monday, August 21, 2023
Conference Rooms 202 & 203
151 Martin Street, Birmingham, Michigan

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee held on August 21, 2023. The meeting was convened at 6:00 p.m.

1) Roll Call

Present: Harvey Bell, Lois DeBacker, Lara Edwards, Rachna Gulati, Debra Horner, Joe Mercurio, Jess Newman, Danielle Todd, Dani Torcolacci

Absent: None

Staff: City Planner Blizinski; Planning Director Dupuis, Assistant City Manager Fairbairn

2) Review of the Agenda

3) Approval of the AHESC Minutes of May 15, 2023 and June 12, 2023

Motion by Ms. DeBacker

Seconded by Ms. Horner to approve the minutes of the regular Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting of May 15, 2023 as amended.

Motion carried, 9-0

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Bell, DeBacker, Edwards, Gulati, Horner, Mercurio, Newman, Todd, Torcolacci

Nays: None

Motion by Mr. Bell

Seconded by Ms. Gulati to approve the minutes of the regular Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting of June 12, 2023 as amended.

Motion carried, 9-0

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Bell, DeBacker, Edwards, Gulati, Horner, Mercurio, Newman, Todd, Torcolacci

Nays: None

4) Study Session

CP Blizinski and PD Dupuis presented the study session items and answered informational questions from the AHESC.

It was noted the accurate number of residences served by Consumer Energy could be found in its representative's email to CP Blizinski and not on the form included in the agenda packet. It

was also noted that Staff would consult with the City Attorney about OMA rules regarding the AHESC sharing resources within Google Drive.

- A. GHGI Data Examples**
- B. SCAP Additional Data Sources**
- C. Project Timeline**
- D. Community Engagement**
 - 1. Interim Survey Summary**
 - 2. Farmer's Market, August 27th, 9am-2pm**

AHESC members' comments on Study Session items were as follows:

- Birmingham residences and commercial properties produce a significant amount of yard waste - nearly a ton per property per year;
- American Forests has a tool that offers a Tree Equity Score that would allow the City to see which areas should be targeted for planting first. The City could have a goal of meeting or exceeding 40% canopy coverage;
- EPA Air Now offers an air quality assessment tool. Birmingham should consider adding sensors and publicizing the data to increase awareness and interest in improving air quality;
- The University of Michigan may have completed a report regarding climate change in Detroit within the past few years that should be included as a data source;
- It would be valuable to take a regional approach to understanding the effects of climate change, and to get more granular in terms of Birmingham's best responses to those effects. It was noted that Birmingham would have concerns about water, for instance, due to its water tables that would be different from other municipalities in the region;
- Water shed report cards should be coming out in Fall 2023 which could be used as another data source. It was noted that Birmingham had halted its payments for water shed quality monitoring, and that it would be beneficial if those payments could be restarted;
- The Rouge River has been listed as an 'Area of Concern' since 1987 - fish should not be eaten from the River, people should not swim in it, and pets should be prevented from drinking from it;
- The AHESC should gain clarity on what data would be needed for the climate and adaptation parts of the plan, and what data would be needed for broader sustainability aspects of the plan;
- Prioritizing sustainable changes that could be made quickly would benefit the residents and the City as a whole. Increasing the sustainability of Birmingham's government would be one set of changes that could likely be implemented relatively quickly;
- Publicizing the financial and sustainability return-on-investments for those changes would be important;
- The EPA EJScreen and EGLE's air quality and water quality monitoring would be valuable sources of information;
- It would be beneficial to keep track of which desired data was not available and to consider recommending that data be sought;

- It was discussed that AHESC members could pursue any appropriate method of publicizing the sustainability survey, including individual AHESC members' social media, word-of-mouth, neighborhood or school newsletters, or other methods;
- It was discussed whether it was more appropriate for the AHESC to clarify its focus before seeking input from the public, or whether input from the public should be solicited before AHESC clarifies its focus;
- It was noted that proper facilitation of the input sessions would help clarify the language people are comfortable with and the language people are motivated by. The input session should also help clarify how broad or focused the vision statement for the plan should be;
- It could be helpful to use some of the quotes from the survey in the public input session; and,
- The Project Timeline and Interim Survey Summary were briefly reviewed.

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

6) Miscellaneous Communications

7) Draft Agenda

8) Adjournment

No further business being evident, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.



Leah Blizinski, City Planner



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist