



Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:30pm

**Meeting Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room
Public Safety Building, 2395 Twelve Mile Road**

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order Present: Mark, Noel, Caroline, Rebekah and Trisha, Jess
2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes / Today's Agenda Caroline motioned, Trisha seconded. Trisha motioned Caroline seconded
3. Public Comment NO ONE
4. City Council Liaison Report - Councilperson Jessica Vilani replacing Ross. 3rd year on council, berkley resident,
 - o Welcome Jess! Input: retail pet sales was big issue in the fall. There is a permanent ban in place on pet sales, no new business can come in. There is new licensure procedures to go through for any existing pet stores to provide info on where the pets are coming from, health concerns etc. Big development on Columbia, waiting for developer to turn in the last of their paperwork. Her understanding is as of right now there is not enough support on council to pass, but things could change. Most people had issues with "bridge" but removing that would make it less profitable? Working on updates to parking ordinances. Easier online process for people to park overnight, and a place for people to put in an appeal for a permanent on street parking pass (houses with no driveways). Any studio or 1 br apt, 1.5 spaces per unit is required. No talk about bicycle parking or EV structures/credits etc. Mark's thoughts, able to incentivize shared parking agreements? Not sure where this will land with the changes, but in regards to Berkley Days it is still happening? Mark reports: we did earn \$1000 from Berkley Days, what's going on with a bank account for us? If we want to do the bike corral again, they are planning on having berkley days, meeting on jan 30th at Legion send a rep, Mark can go.
5. Review EAC Projects List - All
 - o Roundtable share out of research progress
 - i. What are our city's ordinances? Lighting: Rebekah read up, found very little in master plan on light pollution, Jess shared that's one of the biggest complaints from new businesses, found a good resource in "scenic MI" to find out other cities lighting ordinances . Native Plants: current ordinance is heavily devoted to trees, need to update some it with landscaping/plants. Willing to provide a list of prohibited plants. if we do want that kind of language included, we need to have lists of preferred native plants and why, drought resistant plants and why with links to find more info. There is a noxious weed section in current ordinances, noticed other cities do mention planned natural landscapes. Master plan talks about it, energy plan doesn't. Several cities including Royal Oak,



Farmington Hills have plans that. Caroline: Berkley was picked to be used for an indepth study on how well the residents recycle and contaminated materials. How is SOCCRA dissemination information, can they provide info and education in other ways? They are putting in large cardboard recycling receptacle at DPW permanently, only for large cardboard. Will SOCCRA have another electronics recycling in the spring? Noel: MI has codes for minimum insulation required. Programmable thermostats, new HVAC systems in city hall from \$\$ through State Rep Andy Levin low expense but cost effective. Rain Barrels, urged us to pool our order with another city, like Washtenaw. What other cities are doing are pooling orders together, smaller cities will have someone from the city go and get them. Called DPW and asked are you able to detail an employee and a vehicle to go to Washtenaw and get them and can you house them in DPW yard for people to come pick them up? Left a voicemail with questions and no return call and emailed city manager with no response. Could be at Parks and Rec? Instead of fundraiser, can just put out info on how to create their own? Aligns with Oakland County's \$ reimbursement for RainSmart Rebates in flood prone areas (Berkley is one). Air Quality: ordinance is clear, misinformation about bonfire pits, need public education campaign; remind residents about toxic nature of smoke and dangers of sparks and embers, appeal to empathy towards neighbors with medication conditions, recommend they convert to propane. If Public Safety officers could share these when they're called. Offer incentives to switch to propane, refer to websites that sell the kits to do that.

- ii. What actions has the city committed to take and what's the status?
 - iii. What are other cities doing?
6. Review committee mission statement SKIP, think about it for next meeting
 7. Update on Native Plant Sale Documentation - Tricia
 8. Update on EGLE funding for the Community Energy Management Program Discussion - Mark
 - o Review progress on "put together a plan that we can show the state that outlines our goals so that we can apply for the grant (Mark and Ross are the ones who will have to apply for the grant)." Mark: original idea was for Berkley to look into tapping into the federal \$ in the inflation reduction act. Found out Washington is handling this distribution through the state and the state is handling it through SEMCOG in this part of the state. Amount of \$ available is up to 4.6 billion dollars, for just this area of the country. Unrolling in 2 stages. SEMCOG created architecture to fund projects with this \$, they created a healthy climate task force which has met twice, meeting again on 1/22 Mark is registered. Gain understanding of how grant programs are handled. SEMCOG is obligated under the law to create a list of priority projects along with a short range climate improvement plan, and a longer range plan by the summer of 2025. This process



being shepherded by SEMCOG is oriented toward funding projects that have been in the works or are long in the planning stage. Significant projects, funded ranging from 2 mil dollars to 500 mil dollars for projects within this area. The guidelines for this funding include, at federal and state level, a significant tilt toward lower income communities, there is a climate justice element to the program. The catch is that any community that wants to apply for a grant must submit an application by 4/1 of this year, and application has to reflect the priorities within this short term list, and that list will be disclosed on March 1st PCAP Priority Climate Action Plan. No action has been taken by the city yet, projects are focused around transit, project facilities, recycling, landscaping/natural areas. It is possible to apply for a grant with a coalition of other communities. To get a grant you must be able to quantify reducing greenhouse emissions. In regards to transit most of the Inflation Reduction Act and MI Healthy CLimate Plan, mostly about EVs.

9. Update on SEMCOG Healthy Climate Task Force - Mark
 - o Review updates
10. Report out on Zoning Ordinance Steering Committee - Mark
 - o Share out December meeting
11. Upcoming EAC Activities
 - o Rain Barrel Library Class - Noel
 - o Spring Native Plant Sale - Tricia reached out to get admin approval, our date is locked down on 5/19 10-2
12. Announcements Jess confirmed info on covered recycling bin for 2 slots to put in card fills 12 cubic yards. for cardboard
13. Adjournment motion to adjourn caroline, tricia seconded, meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Next Meeting: February 20, 2024

https://www.berkleymich.org/boards_and_commissions/environmental.php