



Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 6:30pm

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

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes / Today's Agenda Mark approve, Caroline second, Mark approve
3. Public Comment Eric Arnsnan liaison with Planning Committee, from a few site plan reviews there have been some discussion regarding what types of native plants. More on the executive side, what's already in the code and is being followed. Where does it stand after all the public meetings at the HS? Working to update and simplify ordinances and codes, met with city council in December to review. More on the housing side zoning/coding. Not much in there on landscaping.
4. City Council Liaison Report - Councilperson Jessica Vilani
 - There is no change in status for the Columbia Project - it has not come before Council yet. It is anticipated to be on the March agenda
 - There is no space to store rain barrels on city property. Given the storage and POS challenges, it is recommended to explore the option of having a 3rd party hold and informational/purchase event for residents if this remains a priority of the group
 - I am going to work with Matt to see if Kristin Kapelanski can attend the March meeting to talk about how we can partner on 'greening' ordinance updates
 - Berkley Days was approved for May 9-12, 2024
 - I requested support for the EAC account on the budget so the money can be transferred - I am still waiting on a response. There has been some turnover in the finance dept which is likely delaying resolution.
5. Alex Brown, Facilities Manager Update. exciting stuff happening in the city on energy savings and sustainability front. EV chargers are up and running; library chargers live on 2/13/23 Oxford live around Labor Day. 1445 total charging sessions with 478 unique drivers. Since charging \$, about 280 at library and 115 at the park (after electrical bills) money will be put in revolving fund for energy based projects eventually. next big thing working on over a year is HVAC replacement in all city buildings. starting public safety, city hall, library and eventually community center (new building?) going to council in March for approval with Johnson Controls. some stuff could still be over a year out. add 2nd boiler to public safety, rooftop units at city hall, boiler at library. pricing goes up the longer this goes on, but waiting on about 1.7 mil in grants from federal and state government. phase one is replacing old equipment, phase two might be looking into alternative energy or insulation Mark has info on solar panels to share. Rebate money will be coming back. Other big thing is LED conversion on all city buildings and



sports courts/fields. All lights are brighter. Was light pollution considered? Give it a full year of usage to see where savings is, can provide that data then. did have some complaints that were resolved, over the brightness. What percentage of equipment is electric? Revisit the idea of electric city vehicles. Would appreciate feedback on any and all energy savings. Email: abrown@berkleymich.net, cell: 248-483-1032, city hall: 248-658-3355

6. Review Meeting Schedule
 - Should we move from Tues to Thurs? Checking with Jess (she isn't available on Tuesdays) and building availability.
7. Review committee mission statement
 - "There is hereby created an environmental advisory committee for the purpose of studying and recommending actions and programs to the city council and city manager to promote educating the public and environmental stewardship by and in the City of Berkley. The environmental advisory committee shall act as a fact finder and advisor to the city council and city manager." Help us figure out where we are headed as a group, easier to create literature about us etc. Council doesn't seem to reach out to us very much to refer things to us, or bringing us into planning for things like the energy efficiency, or recommending grants. Rebekah will come up with a draft so we can vote on it next month.
8. Berkley Days Meeting - Trish
 - \$500 waiting for us to get an account.
 - Park and Ride
 - Trish attended the Berkley Days meeting last month. They will require us, to participate as a group, go to the Berkley Days meetings at least 3x. There will be more security, 2 entries, no bags, private security etc. They need help. Thurs 5-11, Fri 4-11, Sat 1-11, Sun 12-6. length of shifts depends on volunteers. Committing to doing it, next steps are determining what hours. etc.
9. Review EAC Projects List Mark: attended SEMCOG task force meeting on 1/22. They are figuring out how to obtain and distribute all of the inflation reduction act money coming to MI, as much as 6 billion. How to position ourselves to receive this money? 2 steps, SEMCOG in charge of this region of the state. They are formally adopting the plan for step 1 and in 2025 a plan will be adopted for step 2. Step 1 is short range environmental benefits from greenhouse gas reduction projects, some expected to meet established metrics by 2030. Step 2 covers up to the year 2050 more long range projects. Berkley needs to get in the game. Southeast MI Healthy Climate Plan is step 1. Decarbonizing buildings and industry both residential and commercial buildings, upgrading mass transit opportunities, improvements in managing waste materials, expanding renewable energy generation and optimizing natural and working lands. The projects that are under consideration have to be included in these plans by March 1st. Mark will attend an April meeting. Regarding transportation: there are 15 SMART bus stops, SMART does offer opportunity to "adopt a stop" Munro Crafts adopted 1 on 12 Mile, something our committee could consider doing in the future? These bus stops are bare, maybe 5 have a bench, not terribly visible. Going to get a better handle on what the future will be for mass transit in the area.



10. Upcoming EAC Activities Caroline will look into an activity in Berkley for Earth Day, maybe the weekend of 4/20-4/22? Library? Spring/Summer Clothing Swap? Will report back. Noel contacted Caitlin FLora, communications director, would love to get information from us to be included on the website/cable news channel. She can format for us, just give her basic information.
11. Announcements
12. Adjournment Caroline motioned Trish seconded 8:05

Next Meeting: March 19, 2024

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