

BERKLEY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting of June 18, 2020

6:30 PM

VIA REMOTE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda- motion - approved

Approval of Minutes of January 2020 meeting

Motion to approve the January minutes – motion – approved, no discussion

Public Comment

No public participation during the zoom call

Chairperson's Report – Richardson

Haven't met since January. COVID has delayed programs BEAC has previously had (bike corral, Berkley Days), no known date of resumed activities

Master Plan Committee has been having virtual meetings. Consultant working on the MP has engaged the community (i.e. public survey and online workshops). Look at the City's website for time/date of workshops.

Wanted to focus on the survey results (1300+ responses). Data available on the city website
Most of the responses came from long time residents (61% respondents have resided in Berkley for 20+ years)

Survey results show support in increasing recreation activities (i.e. restaurants, outdoor events, community center) within the city.

Less support for multi-family housing, focus on concentrating on Greenfield and 11 mile corridors.

Even split on parking (not enough available parking vs. enough parking)

Roads and pedestrian safety

Results give BEAC an opportunity to leverage initiatives the group is working on

Oxford Park – site plan was approved, but no approval for the green space and stormwater management

Update on Letter to Matt Baumgarten Re: Energy Manager for the city – letter was submitted for Matt's review.

City Council Liaison Report - Councilperson Gavin

Utility Manager was not added to this year's budget, but \$10,000 budgeted to work with eco-works to provide energy management services. 40% energy savings back to eco-works, 40% back to the city, 10% into the revolving fund.

City budgeted more money for the tree project to provide trees to the community at no cost, to improve the urban forestry

Clinton River Watershed Committee Presentation – working with Watertowns to look at 5 areas (cummings, hillers parking lot, boulevard areas, community centers, JC park) that have issues

with storm water run-off/ standing water. July 6th meeting and presentation from Watertowns, and hand off to the city. Realistically looking at next year to implement the projects. Mark requested that the renderings / information be shared with the BEAC prior to the July 6th meeting, would like to review the items before the next meeting.

Non-committee items:

Council approved resolution to temporary change the outdoor seating arrangements as a result of COVID.

City accepting applications for marijuana facilities, this is on-going

Requests to the city to cancel the dream cruise have been made to the city

Council approved the resolution to adopt a non-discrimination policy within the city

Discussion around the city making more “green” choices with building remodels/construction, applying some kind of weight system that considers sustainable options

Discussion Item: Energy Efficiency Plan Implementation

City Council has retained Eco-Works to perform energy audits of municipal buildings which will be baseline activity which will aid towards moving the city to be more energy efficient

Eco-Works items to highlight:

Benchmarking energy usage (5 months to develop)

Identify appropriate cost-saving items the city might not be using right now (discounts, rebates, incentives)

These items will help establish the revolving fund. Two years to share cost savings with the city
Matt Baumgarten will be the Eco-Works project lead and will provide updates to the BEAC

Discussion Item: Solar EV charging station project

Dave Hurst (former BEAC chair) volunteered to champion this project, Council person Baker works for DTE Energy, and has a project to bring public EV stations to Berkley, this project was delayed due to COVID.

Three locations have been discussed (library, community center, a Berkley park)

Would be helpful to consider where to put non-free chargers (people won't want to go to a park and pay to charge vs. restaurants/bars), also consider how long people will stay at the location to charge the vehicle

Public charging stations

Free charging or paid charging is unknown at this time

Private installation is making progress, public/municipal charging stations has been slow

Action Item: Election of Officers

Chair – Mark would like to continue to be the chair for at least one more year/cycle. Mark nominated for chair.

Vice Chair – Brandon is the current vice chair. Brandon nominated for vice chair.

Secretary – Karyn has been the secretary for many years and would like to step down because she won't be able to attend many meetings due to work travel. Bethany volunteered for the position. Bethany nominated for Secretary.

Old Business: Stormwater Green Infrastructure Grant; recycling opportunities

Storm water green infrastructure, see #2 above, Matt distributing information to the group

Recycling opportunities – Chris presented in January to discuss potentially broadening recycling in Berkley and focusing on the restaurants in the city, connecting them to composting companies. Due to COVID, perhaps this initiative should be put on hold.

New Business

Does Berkley have a community garden? One previously located off of Harvard which was paved over.

Jessica provided other community gardens (Ypsilanti garden of hope, etc)

Creating a poll for Berkley residents to weigh in on the interest for a garden and also help with identifying potential locations for a garden.

Brandon brought up EV charging stations to the Master Planning meeting, as well as solar power back-up micro grid. Storm water credits implementation, multi-modal transportation Updates on the green infrastructure on 11 mile between Berkley and Oak Park- this has been tabled as the result of COVID

Announcements

SOCORA will host an electronic and household hazardous materials recycling day on June 23rd, at 13 Mile & Coolidge at the putt-putt/bating cages.

Webinar sponsored by Michigan Climate Action Network on June 24th, 10-11:30am, theme of the webinar is "Michigan After the Flood" and how to make Michigan more sustainable

No meeting in July

Next meeting will be the third Thursday of August, 6:30-7:30, unknown if this meeting will be in-person or virtual

Adjourn