

Berkley Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes: 11/17/2022

Attendees:

- Mark Richardson
- Tricia Losey
- Noel Rendleman
- Rebekah Randle
- Stephanie Pandolfi

6:38pm: Meeting called to order

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of agenda

- a. Steph: motion to adopt agenda
- b. Tricia: Second
- c. Agenda adopted unanimously

III. Public comment

IV. Chair's report

- a. Facilities manager met with the group last month
 - i. Talked about increasing energy efficiency in city buildings
 - ii. Streetlight conversion to LED lights
 - iii. Progress on installing EV charging stations in Berkley
 1. Smart meters – group not in favor of this because smart meters are backed up by a network that records usage, but it adds to the expense.
 - a. Mark prefers phasing that in at some point in the future.
 - iv. Will work with us on grant writing
- b. Congress passed an inflation reduction act this past summer which creates money for municipalities for things such as the charging stations.
 - i. We should keep an eye on this so that the city (and residents) are aware of the availability of the money
- c. Madison Heights Civic Center meeting
 - i. Expanding farmers market
 - ii. Rain barrels

V. City Council Liaison Report – tabled (Ross Gavin not in attendance)

VI. Old Business: committee goals and priorities

- a. Projects for 2023 – list of ideas and who will head these projects
 - i. Mark: bike corral for city events.

- ii. Maybe offer community service hours to National Honor Society high school students to run the bike corral especially for longer events like Berkley Days? Steph to talk to Christina Belsky about this.
- iii. Lawn canopy would be very helpful
- iv. Approximate dates for bike corral (decide in January which ones we'll do and who will be in charge):
 - 1. Berkley Days (5/18/23-5/23/23)
 - 2. Art Bash (6/10/23)
 - 3. Berkley Pride (June, 2023?)
 - 4. Art Fest (7/15/23)
- v. Mark: zoning ordinance review with K. Kaplansky
 - 1. Mark spoke with Kristen Kaplansky and they are going to do a landscaping ordinance and she will keep Mark posted on when it's coming up. Will apply to commercial properties, multi-family residences – new constructions and renovations. Will look at things like percent of natural / green cover, etc.
 - a. Noel suggested using the inflation reduction fund money to possibly offer incentives to homeowners for using, for example, permeable materials instead of concrete, or mulching blades for lawnmowers for shredding / composting leaves rather than raking.
 - b. Mark will make the other committee members administrators on the BEAC Facebook page so that we can increase posts and exposure and thus traffic to the page. Tricia does this for the Tree Board via "Business Suite" to schedule the postings
 - c. City of Southfield has a Low Impact Development (LID) plan, Tricia asked Mark to bring this to Kristen Kaplansky for the planning commission.
- vi. Rebekah will set up a Google Drive folder for sharing documents
- vii. Noel: Rain barrels (March).
 - 1. Mark contacted Jessica Heath about contacting the company that handled the rain barrels at the library.
 - 2. Noel spoke with Joshua Rubin (CEO of Michigan Rain Barrels) about doing a presentation and providing the barrels.
 - 3. March is wide open, but deadline to get it into the March newsletter was late October.
 - 4. Noel will talk with Matt Church about securing a day.
 - 5. Promote the sale:
 - a. Fliers
 - b. Inserts in the water bills through DPW
 - c. Facebook (our page and library page)
 - d. Theater and rec center marquees
- viii. Tricia / Rebekah: Earth Day (April 22nd)
 - 1. Recycling drive – Mark can talk to SOCCRA about this
 - 2. Electronics / batteries recycling drive
 - 3. Informative lecture series (about global warming and what it means to Michigan / Berkley)? Environmental Sustainability in Berkley Series
 - a. Nathan Hoturoa Gray (from NZ)?

- b. General Motors (to discuss initiative to go completely electric)?
- c. Other university professor(s)?
- d. Sammy or someone he knows to talk to the youth?
- e. Local news meteorologist?
- ix. Steph: farmer's market (May / June)
- x. Steph / Rebekah: compost bins (fall) – Lilian Dean (education / workshop)
- xi. Tricia / Rebekah: native plant education and planting (fall)
 - 1. Talk to Matt Baumgarten about native plants along Coolidge

VII. New Business

VIII. Announcements

IX. Approval of September minutes

- a. Rebekah: motion to adopt agenda
- b. Tricia: Second
- c. Minutes approved unanimously

X. Adjourn

- a. Tricia: motion to adjourn
- b. Rebekah: Second
- c. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously
- d. Meeting adjourned 8:02pm