

Berkley Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes: 8/18/2022

Attendees:

- Mark Richardson
- Andrew McIndoo
- Tricia Losey
- Noel Rendleman
- Rebekah Randle
- Charlie Cavell
- Ross Gavin
- Stephanie Pandolfi

6:53pm: Meeting called to order

I. This week's agenda

- A. Andrew McIndoo: move to adopt agenda
- B. NR: second
- C. Agenda adopted unanimously

II. Last meeting's minutes

- A. Add Andrew McIndoo to attendees
- B. Tricia Losey: move to approve minutes with amendment
- C. NR: second
- D. Minutes approved with amendment unanimously

III. Public comments added to agenda

IV. Chair's report

- A. Copy of ordinance distributed to the committee
- B. Transit meeting in Royal Oak on 8/1/2022
 1. Co-sponsored by Transit Riders United (TRU)
 2. Preview of transit millage proposal for Oakland County on November ballot
 - a. Discussion about if Berkley as a city will take a position on this millage
 3. Amanda Herzog (member of Royal Oak Sustainability Commission) was in attendance and discussed a plan adopted by Royal Oak.
 4. Chairs of the regional municipal environmental committees to meet to discuss wider local environmental initiatives toward collective strength for grant opportunities, etc.
 5. Infrastructure plan and COVID-19 money and other sources to be made available for environmental initiatives.

V. Ross Gavin

- A. Berkley Cruise Fest at 6:30pm on 8/18/2022
- B. Funds allocated for a street sweeper for DPW
- C. Land use request approved for a brewery on Coolidge & Dorothea
- D. \$350K inclusive playscape at Jaycee Park
- E. Energy Loan Revolving Fund: create efficiencies, save money, put savings into the fund.

1. Green stormwater initiatives
 2. Replace HVAC systems in municipal buildings
- F. MI Green Communities awarded Berkley gold status for its environmental initiatives!

VI. Oakland County Commissioner Charlie Cavell

- A. General Fund Budget (money comes from taxes)
 1. Office of Sustainability created 3 new positions
 - a. 1 person working on internal sustainability
 - i. Working to make county carbon neutral by 2040
 - b. 2 people working on external sustainability
 - i. Spreading information to local municipalities
 2. Agreement with Oakland University to be the research arm of the Office of Sustainability
- B. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): COVID-19 relief money. Originally \$244M, there is \$118M left in the fund.
 1. Water quality / stormwater
 - a. Local community grants and infrastructure
 - b. Basement flooding prevention, etc.
 - c. Water Resource Commissioner applying for state funds
 2. New ideas: Michigan Saves Program
 - a. \$5M used as \$10K loan or grant to Oakland County Homeowners for weatherization. Trying to get this moved through before the November election
 - b. Timeline:
 - i. ASAP: county executive leadership to determine if the funds will be a grant or a loan
 - ii. ~3 weeks: proposal to go through the County Commission
 - iii. Mid-September: proposal to go through Public Health and Safety
 - iv. October: Board meeting to vote on initiative
 - c. Green Tri-Party agreement could be set up for environmental projects, where the city, non-profit, or businesses contribute funds, along with the county and the Water Resource Commission
 3. Transit
 - a. Opt-Out: currently, regional initiatives for transit depend on voluntary participation.
 - i. Some communities do not support transit initiatives
 - ii. On the ballot for November is a proposal to eliminate the option of opting out
 - iii. Charlie Cavell suggested making and distributing informative flyers, notices on social media, about this initiative
 - a. Mark Richardson will put this info on the BEAC Facebook page
 - iv. Proposal for a 10-year millage (instead of usual 4-year timeline) for SMART and local transit systems.

VII. Discussion

- A. Mark Richardson will review Tricia Losey's information about the Green Initiatives in other communities
- B. Mark Richardson: think about a work plan with prioritization
- C. Mark Richardson will email an outline he put together to draft a Berkley sustainability plan
 - 1. Number one issue is stormwater – BEAC should come up with some green solutions.
 - a. Rebekah Randle mentioned rain gardens, planting native plants, etc.
 - 2. Energy efficiency
 - 3. Transit

VIII. Announcements

- A. Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) (which the city would need to match).
 - 1. Grants up to \$25K for urban tree projects
 - a. City would match 1:1 (can be in kind)
 - 2. Applications due 9/23/2022.
 - 3. Tricia Losey will look at this next week.

IX. Future Items

- A. Canopy study
- B. Aeration of lawns in public areas
- C. Mark Richardson will give 2022 agendas and minutes to City Clerk to put on website for accessibility.

8:27pm: Rebekah Randle motion to adjourn; Tricia Losey second; motion to adjourn meeting passed unanimously.