



Royal Oak

Minutes

Royal Oak Environmental Advisory Board

July 31, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Royal Oak Farmers Market
316 East Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Present: Amanda Herzog
Woody Gontina
Tessa Benziger
Brock Bosack
Zoe Chase
Frank Komola
Julie Lyons Bricker
Nicholas Marcelletti
Ed Slesak
Paul Vial

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Paul Vial

Seconded by: Zoe Chase

Motion to approve the agenda as published.

Motion Adopted

3. Approval of Minutes

Item deferred until next meeting.

4. Public Comment

Ted Strunck reminded the group about several state bills related to energy regulations including community solar and provided a summary update.

Treva Formby noted that she would be interested in hosting public talks related to native gardening.

5. New Business

5.a EV Charging and Solar Energy Presentation and Discussion

Angela Fox provided an update on the status of the several EV-related projects, reporting on the plan to replace EV chargers in the parking decks. She answered questions related to her draft proposal from board members and the public.

The board deliberated on the nature of what items are presented to the board and how, and how the board can support and advise staff in their work.

The group collectively decided to not take formal action on this item.

The Royal Oak Environmental Advisory Board supports the staff recommendation to hire Red E for the installation of 8 level two charger replacements at the 300 S. Center, 212 S. Center, and 514 S. Layfayette parking structures.

Amendment:

Motion to table the original suggested resolution.

5.b Soy-backed SYNLawn EnviroLoc Discussion

Commissioner Herzog discussed the use of synthetic turf in a planned DDA project and the ongoing discussions related to the issue in the design process. Noted that one consultant offered a soy-based option which is potentially a better solution.

The group engaged in general discussion about the use of synthetic turf in streetscapes and discussed various alternatives. Synthetic turf was generally disfavored.

6. Old Business

Chair Gontina lead a discussion on the status of the ordinance revision that would permit students to vote on certain boards.

7. Receive and File

7.a City Commissioner Report

Commissioner Herzog noted:

- Master Plan available for review and comment
- City Manager recruitment is on-going
- Appointments ordinance revisions to permit student votes to be presented to commission at 8.12 meeting
- Encouraged people to vote in upcoming election

7.b Staff Report

Angela Fox answered questions related to her report.

7.c Subcommittee/Other Reports

7.d SOCRRA Waste & Recycling Tonnage Reports

8. General Announcements

Chair Gontina noted an upcoming speakers summit, updated on Solarize initiatives, and discussed desire.

Next meeting: August 28, 2024

Moved by: Zoe Chase

Seconded by: Ed Slesak

Motion to meet on August 28, 2024

Motion Adopted

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm.