



Minutes

Royal Oak Environmental Advisory Board

September 25, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Royal Oak Farmers Market
316 East Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

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

Absent: Amanda Herzog
Jill Robinson

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Group moved to add discussion on moving meetings to the Royal Oak City Hall, a discussion on Lawson Park berms, and working with the DDA on compostable wares.

Moved by: Frank Komola

Seconded by: Nicholas Marcelletti

To approve the agenda.

Motion Adopted

3. Approval of Minutes

Member Lyons-Bricker noted that Treva Formby's last name was not included in the August minutes.

Moved by: Zoe Chase
Seconded by: Julie Lyons Bricker

To approve the minutes of the August 28, 2024 Environmental Advisory Board meeting.

Motion Adopted

4. Public Comment

Ms. Formby discussed her recent talk at the library and reported that it was well-received and discussed other potential future talks.

5. New Business

5.a Discussion on Meeting Locations

Chair Gontina led a discussion on potentially changing meeting locations to City Hall or returning to the Senior Center.

Staff agreed to verify availability and review the necessary logistics to host the November 20th meeting at City Hall.

5.b Lawson Park Berm Discussion

Chair Gontina led an update and discussion on a resident-driven initiative to 'adopt' berms and inquired whether we can implement a process to facilitate those. Additional discussion points will be provided for discussion at the EAB's next meeting.

5.c Group Discussion on Encouraging Use of Compostable Materials for DDA Businesses

Member Bosack led the discussion and inquired about finding ways to encourage DDA restaurants to use compostable materials, including cutlery and other items. Sustainability Manager Fox described some of the challenges with such measures.

6. Old Business

6.a EAB Update to Bylaws and Ordinance

Chair Gontina led a discussion on the revised draft based on the discussion of the August meeting.

Several key questions remain relating to the number of members stated in the EAB ordinance and whether it conflicts with the student appointments ordinance. Staff will report back at a future meeting.

7. Receive and File

7.a City Commission Report

7.b Staff Report

7.c Subcommittee/Other Reports

7.d SOCRRA Tonnage Report

7.e SOCWA Water & Precipitation Report

8. General Announcements

Chair Gontina provided an update on the master planning process.

8.a Leave the Leafs Program

The group discussed the 'leave the leaves' initiative and decided to hold a vote to indicate support for it.

Moved by: Paul Vial

Seconded by: Brock Bosack

Motion to support the leave the leaves initiative.

Ayes (8): Tessa Benziger, Brock Bosack, Zoe Chase, Frank Komola, Julie Lyons Bricker, Nicholas Marcelletti, Ed Slesak, and Paul Vial

Nays (1): Woody Gontina

Motion Adopted (8 to 1)

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Moved by: Brock Bosack

Seconded by: Paul Vial

To adjourn the adjourn the meeting.

Motion Adopted