

REGULAR MEETING OF THE DEARBORN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Dearborn, Michigan

January 15, 2025

This regular meeting was called to order at 4:03pm by Samir Deshpande

Commissioners present: Ramsey Saymuah, Mahmoud Tanana, Mohamed Dabaja, Lamis Srour, Paul Boyce, Rene Ziaja, Micho Assi, Batoull Haidar

Commissioners absent: Asma Said

Also present: Samir Deshpande (Environmental Health Manager), Abdullah Hammoud (Mayor), Ali Abazeed (Director of Public Health), Celeste Kettaneh (Health Communications Specialist), Leslie Herrick (Dearborn City Council President Pro Tem), Jeremy Brown (Assistant Corporation Counsel) and a member of the public.

Mr. Deshpande announced Item II., introductions and welcome. Mr. Hammoud introduced himself as Dearborn mayor and shared his vision for the Environmental Commission. Mr. Hammoud took questions. Mr. Hammoud recommended the end of the calendar year for the State of the Environment Annual Report. Commission members then introduced themselves and their environmental interests. Mr. Abazeed and Mr. Deshpande then introduced themselves and their roles within the city government.

Mr. Deshpande also introduced the Commission's specific responsibilities as an advisory commission. A copy of the ordinance enabling the Environmental Commission was shared, City of Dearborn Code, Part II, Chapter 2, Article II, Division 3A. Mr. Brown stated that he would draft proposed bylaws that Commissioners could edit to establish any rules and procedures not dictated by the enabling ordinance.

Mr. Deshpande then announced Item III., electing officers. Mr. Deshpande and Mr. Brown introduced the open roles (Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, and Secretary) and their responsibilities.

A motion was made by Commissioner Saymuah, seconded by Commissioner Haidar, to nominate himself as Chairperson. Upon roll call the following vote was taken: Ayes: (8) (Commissioners Saymuah, Tanana, Dabaja, Srour, Boyce, Ziaja, Assi, and Haidar). Nays: (0). Absent: (1) (Commissioner Said). The motion was adopted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Assi, seconded by Commissioner Saymuah, to nominate herself as Vice-chairperson. Upon roll call the following vote was taken: Ayes: (8)

(Commissioners Saymuah, Tanana, Dabaja, Srour, Boyce, Ziaja, Assi, and Haidar). Nays: (0). Absent: (1) (Commissioner Said). The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deshpande stated that he would assist in keeping and typing meeting minutes. A motion was made by Commissioner Boyce, seconded by Commissioner Dabaja, to nominate himself as Secretary. Upon roll call the following vote was taken: Ayes: (8) (Commissioners Saymuah, Tanana, Dabaja, Srour, Boyce, Ziaja, Assi, and Haidar). Nays: (0). Absent: (1) (Commissioner Said). The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deshpande then announced Item IV., setting the meeting schedule. Mr. Brown informed Commissioners that it was their prerogative to establish their own meeting schedule. Mr. Brown stated the Environmental Commission as an advisory commission was not subject to the Open Meetings Act.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boyce, seconded by Commissioner Haidar, for the Commission to meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 4pm. After a unanimous voice vote in favor, the motion was adopted.

Mr. Deshpande then announced Item V., the environmental division update. Mr. Deshpande provided a general update of Environmental Division activities to date including on energy efficiency, flood mitigation, and improving air quality. Mr. Deshpande also mentioned efforts toward deindustrialization, greenbelt/greenspace, and reducing food waste.

Mr. Deshpande also stated that in the absence of bylaws governing agenda items, Commissioners can inform him of any agenda items they wish to place on the agenda.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Boyce, seconded by Commissioner Tanana, that based on the responsibilities of the Commission, ongoing activities within the Public Health Department, and what action Commissioners would like to see taken within the city, Commissioners return to the next meeting with concrete ideas of what to discuss.

Councilwoman Herrick suggested the Environmental Commission recommend an Arbor Day

A motion was made by Commissioner Haidar, supported by Commissioner Tanana, to adjourn the meeting. After a unanimous voice vote in favor, the motion was adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40pm.
