



Royal Oak  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
ADVISORY BOARD**

**Minutes**  
**Royal Oak Environmental Advisory Board Meeting**  
**City Hall, 203 South Troy Street**  
**Royal Oak, MI 48067**  
**Zoom Webinar**

**Wednesday, March 24, 2021**  
**7:00p.m.**

**Meeting Recording:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tseSSutiFK0>

**Present:** J. Acevedo, S. Douglas, W. Gontina, C. Hartwig, A. Herzog, P. Lemme, K. Long, N. Marcelletti, A. McMahon, T. Regan, A. Sarpolis, Paul Vial, J. Lyons-Bricker, A. Filipski

**Absent:** N/A

**Guests:** Elise Matz and Todd M. Williams

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
  - Item #5: Approval of February 24, 2021 Minutes removed from agenda and moved to the April EAB meeting. Motion to approve agenda, as edited by P. Vial, second by P. Lemme.

**AYES:** J. Acevedo, S. Douglas, W. Gontina, C. Hartwig, A. Herzog, P. Lemme, K. Long, N. Marcelletti, A. McMahon, T. Regan, A. Sarpolis, Paul Vial

**NAYS:** (0)

4. Guest Speaker - Elise Matz from Lean & Green Michigan
  - Problem: efficiency and renewable energy projects can be expensive. Large upfront investment with slow, long-term return.
  - Solution: PACE financing repaid over a period up to 25 years.
    - Local governments: free economic development tool
    - Property owner: 100% upfront financing with fixed interest rate

- PACE lender: security of property lien
- Qualified PACE Upgrades
  - Energy efficiency: lighting, HVAC, windows, insulation, roofing, caulking
  - Water efficiency: stormwater recapture, low-flow toilets/sinks/showerheads, greywater systems
  - Renewables: solar energy, solar roofs, wind energy, EV charging, geothermal, CHP
- Process
  - Serves 73% of Michiganders
  - Royal Oak established a PACE district in August 2014
  - Oakland County established a PACE district in November 2016
  - Help qualify potential projects, conduct due diligence, coordinate lenders/contractors/property owners, hold contractor trainings.
- Market Data
  - 38 PACE projects financed.
  - \$81.5M private investment
  - Electricity, CO2, Water, Money Savings and Jobs Created
- Case Studies
  - PACE Express: Chene Street Grocers, Poletown East, Detroit
  - New Construction: Cambria Hotel, Shelby, Shelby Township
  - Rescue Capital: The Strand Theater, Downtown Pontiac
  - Biggest Deal: The Exchange, Greektown Detroit
- What gives other communities pause to opt in? Communities do not understand that it is a tool. A few counties don't do economic development. No property owners have defaulted on their loans. Nation wide on 2 properties have went into foreclosure.
- School districts, municipalities, and residential are not eligible. They do multi-family 4+.
- Barriers to scaling? Education gap. For the S-CAP, Lean & Green MI materials that can be shared, presentations to committees and officials to talk through potential projects.

5. Approval of January 27, 2021 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by K. Long, second by P. Lemme.

AYES: J. Acevedo, S. Douglas, W. Gontina, C. Hartwig, A. Herzog, P. Lemme, K. Long, N. Marcelletti, A. McMahon, T. Regan, A. Sarpolis, Paul Vial

NAYS: (0)

6. Public Comment - None

7. Year in Review - Amanda Herzog

- Over the past few weeks I have been getting memories from a year ago popping up on my facebook feed and many of you may also be experiencing this. For me, it has been a mix of emotions to look back on the naiveness and uncertainty of that time. But I am also very grateful to see the progress and hopefully a light at the end of the tunnel on a very hard year. So I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our year as a board. We started the year off with big plans for 2020,

like most of the world. Then I spent most of March canceling those plans. First my favorite event the St. Patrick's Day Parade, then the environmental lecture series at the library, our monthly meetings, and our annual Earth Day event-- which was especially tough because it happened to be the 50th year anniversary. But while we did have to take a pause, it wasn't for long. We started by passing out 100 trees to celebrate the Oakland County Bicentennial. Passed out hundreds of bottles and wipes of mosquito repellent. Created and was Adopted unanimously by the city commission the Resolution Acknowledging the Climate Emergency. Completed a Green House Gas Inventory. The Environmental Advisory Board Ordinance was passed so we can make recommendations to the city commission in a more meaningful way. Participated in our largest Recycling Event yet, over 1,000 cars! We appreciated the contribution of previous EAB members that resigned and gained 3 new EAB members. We connected to the community through social media. Then started the planning and work on our big initiatives that will be carried throughout this year the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan, Fugitive Dust Ordinance and the Community Garden Pilot. This was all done even through dealing with the crazy, indescribable at times and never-ending day to day of the pandemic, juggling kids, parents, and fur babies, working from home, zoom meeting after zoom meeting, binge watching tv shows, and all of the anxiety that this year has brought. But I think 2020 ended up being one of our most productive and meaningful years of the EAB. And it is all because of your hard work and dedication to our city, Royal Oak, and the environment. I very much appreciate all of you and what you bring to the board. So thank you so very much! I miss the dynamics of our in-person meetings. And I can't wait to stand in some extreme weather at one of our events very soon!

8. Director of Public Services and Recreation Report - Aaron Filipski

- Results letter from EGLE: 12 ppm. Reduces the number of sites to be tested to 30 from June-September.
- Still waiting on Drinking Water Asset Grant.
- Consumer Confidence Report 2020 published in Insight Magazine and on website.
- Annual Park Cleanup-Adopt a Park April 24 & 25. Contact Gail at 248-246-3300

9. Energy and Sustainability Manager Report - Julie Lyons Bricker

- Meeting with April Lynch Deputy Executive to start building coalitions. Discussed Sustainability Officer Position.
- Turn Oakland County Green presentation on Local Governments and Climate Change.
- Turn Oakland County Green meeting with Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter on his vision to move forward sustainability initiatives.
- LED retrofit grant for the Royal Oak Public Library.
- Continuing work on SolSmart Solar designation.
- Green Team working on Bicycle Friendly Community designation.
- Graduate Intern positions have been posted.
- Presenting at the Project Management Institute of Great Lakes event.

10. City Commissioner Report - Shar Douglas

- We will meet remotely at least through the end of May. Hopefully meet in-person this summer.
- 2 final candidates for city attorney. Interviews will be March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7pm
- Approval of contracts for the Centennial Commons Downtown Park.
- CARES Act: \$29M for Royal Oak. TBD on timeline and allocation of funds.
- Planning Commission updating Master Plan.
  - 20 years old
  - \$300,000 proposed for new Master Plan.
  - Take a couple of years to complete.
  - Extensive community engagement.
  - S-CAP will be embedded into the Master Plan.
  - Master Plan: land use and growth and drives zoning.
  - Strategic Plan: all efforts of the city, broad 8 areas.

#### 11. Fugitive Dust Workgroup - Jennifer Acevedo

- Drafting recommendations for the City Commission based on health and environmental data, best management practices, costs, and list of other communities with similar ordinances.
- Birmingham, MI ordinance section 50 environmental.
- J. Lyons Bricker has a contact, environmental lawyer, that can consult on this effort.
- Bring back to future EAB meeting for approval.

#### 12. Community Garden Workgroup - Tom Regan

- Survey (73 participants)
  - Site selection (only if interested in 'putting a shove in the ground' this spring)
    - 39-ROHS lawn
    - 35-Lindell Ice Arena
    - 42-Starr Jaycee Park
  - How will you participate in the garden?
    - 30-I will have an individual plot
    - 55- I would like to work on a plot with someone else
- Next meeting: March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10A at Lindell Ice Arena, COVID safe meeting.
  - Look at the different sites.
  - Contracts/agreements and fees
- Next steps
  - T. Regan will send A. Filipski example agreements.
  - Determine resources needed at the site (water, compost, materials, etc.).

#### 13. Sustainability Plan Workgroup - Julie Lyons Bricker

- Finalizing timeline with tentative kickoff community engagement event in June.
- Judy Davids will present the Community Engagement Cookbook at the next S-CAP meeting.
- Creating 6 focus area workgroups to start in September.
  - Energy
  - Transportation
  - Green Space

- Water
- Waste
- Quality of Life
- Stakeholders: contact J. Lyons Bricker if EAB members or network would like to participate in the workgroups.

#### 14. Announcements

- Public comment at Oakland County Board of Commissioners Meeting March 25, 2021
  - Vote to fund Chief Sustainability Officer position and AECOM campus-wide audit.
  - These will help to support local communities with climate action including Royal Oak.
  - Call for support. There has been a movement with significant opposition.

#### 15. Other Updates/Discussion

- W. Gontina: through all the webinars, meetings and conversations at county level and surrounding municipalities, Royal Oak and Oakland County are further ahead on sustainability and climate action. There is a renewed sense of pride for the work we do. Thankful for all of us working on these issues.

#### 16. Non-Action Items

- SOCRRA Refuse/Recycling Tonnage Report
  - Monthly report from SOCRRA board meeting.
  - % of total waste stream compared to our neighbors
  - Trends with COVID: mixed solid waste increased, record turnout for local recycling events, and recycling rates stayed consistent.
  - Outreach to more recycling.
    - Not enough has been done.
    - Comes in waves, big push when carts were rolled out.
    - EAB can help with outreach.
    - Competition with other communities to get recycling numbers up.

#### 17. Next Meeting April 28, 2021

Motion to adjourn by A. Sarpolis, second by K. Long.

AYES: J. Acevedo, S. Douglas, W. Gontina, C. Hartwig, A. Herzog, P. Lemme, K. Long, N. Marcelletti, A. McMahon, T. Regan, A. Sarpolis, Paul Vial

NAYS: (0)