

**GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION – JANUARY 3, 2007**

Commissioner Mike Garfield officially called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 100 N. Fifth Ave, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

Present: Commissioners Sylvia Taylor, Jennifer Hall, Dan Ezekiel, Mike Garfield, Robert Johnson, Dale Lesser (4:45 p.m.), Gilbert Omenn (4:45 p.m.) 7;

Absent: Commissioners Laura Rubin and Albert Berriz, 2.

City Staff Present: Assistant City Attorney Mary Fales

Others: Peg Kohring and Ginny Leikam of the Conservation Fund

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Chairman Garfield announced that Ann Arbor Township just completed a Purchase of Development Rights agreement with the Kapp Farm under its farmland preservation program. Chairman Garfield noted that the Kapp Farm was one of the original Greenbelt properties and the preservation included funds from the City, Township and federal grant dollars.

READING AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

AGENDA APPROVED

Commissioner Johnson moved, seconded by Commissioner Ezekiel, that the agenda be approved as presented.

On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2006 APPROVED WITH CHANGES

Commissioner Taylor moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall, that the regular session minutes of December 6, 2006 be approved with corrections as noted by the Chairman.

On a voice vote, Chairman Garfield declared the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

STRATEGIC PLAN FOLLOW-UP

a. Plan for Outreach to landowners of Open Space parcels

Peg Kohring of the Conservation Fund updated the Commission on the status of the plan for outreach to landowners of open space parcels within the Greenbelt boundary.

Commissioners Hall and Omenn asked for clarity regarding discussions in Closed Session pertaining to outreach efforts and specific landowner strategies.

Chairman Garfield stated Assistant City Attorney Mary Fales would be consulted on the matter.

b. Plan for Outreach to landowners of Farmland parcels

Peg Kohring spoke to the Commission about the application process for farmland parcels for the 2007 year. She stated an open house is planned for February 12, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. The location is yet to be determined.

Commissioner Taylor suggested that the event be held at City Hall or another City location, rather than at a township building.

Commissioner Ezekiel moved, supported by Commissioner Lesser, that the Greenbelt Advisory Commission authorize the Conservation Fund to open a special application cycle for FRPP applications for 2007.

On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Chairman Garfield asked Assistant City Attorney Mary Fales for clarification regarding closed session discussion of landowners and property acquisition.

Assistant City Attorney Fales explained the requirements of the Open Meetings Act and the ability of the Commission to enter into Closed Session to discuss land acquisition, if the Commission so desired.

NEW BUSINESS

MONITORING OF EASEMENTS

Peg Kohring of the Conservation Fund spoke about easement monitoring and the requirements under the Federal Farmland and Ranch Protection Program. She stated that any violations of easements would be immediately reported to the Greenbelt Advisory Commission. Ms. Kohring stated monitoring is known to ensure that easement agreements are being enforced.

Ms. Kohring stated that while the Conservation Fund is currently responsible for the easement monitoring of Greenbelt easements, the responsibility would eventually need to be transferred to a local entity as the Conservation Fund's work expires with the City in the next few years.

Commissioner Ezekiel stated he agrees that monitoring is considered to be a best practice in land preservation.

Commissioner Taylor questioned monitoring responsibilities in situations with multiple easements and various jurisdictions involved in conservation easements on a single property.

Peg Kohring responded that the easement agreements would indicate which unit of government is responsible for easement monitoring and reporting.

Chairman Garfield asked if the landowner could be charged back for enforcement activities related to easement violations. (Yes)

2007 Application Cycle

RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Taylor moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, that the regular session of the Greenbelt Advisory Commission be recessed for a closed session to discuss land acquisition.

On roll call, the vote was as follows:

Yeas, Commissioners Ezekiel, Taylor, Hall, Johnson, Lesser, Omenn, Garfield 7;

Nays, 0.

The Chairman declared the motion carried and the meeting recessed at 5:23 p.m.

Commissioner Ezekiel moved that the regular session of Greenbelt Advisory Commission be reconvened.

On a voice vote, the Chairman declared the motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None.

REPORT FROM COMMISSION COMMITTEES

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Greenbelt Advisory Commission, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber.

Mike Garfield, Chairman

Jacqueline Beaudry

Jacqueline Beaudry, City Clerk
Acting Recording Secretary