



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, April 28, 2021**  
**7:00p.m.**

**Meeting Recording:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOSWef2rK9k>

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

**Absent:** A. McMahon

**Guests:** Mac McCabe, Ann Bueche, Joshua Wright, Larysa Blyzniuk

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
  - Item #5 Approval of March 24, 2021 Minutes removed from agenda, move Community Garden Workgroup to item #7 (after public comment) and move Royal Oak Tree Canopy to item #8. Motion to approve agenda, as edited by W. Gontina, second by P. Vial.

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

**NAYS:** (0)

4. Guest Speaker - Mac McCabe from MI SAVES
  - MI Saves the nation's 1<sup>st</sup> non-profit Green Bank. <https://michigansaves.org/>
  - Mission: advance energy efficiency and renewables through financing.

- Loan loss reserve, local credit unions for below market rates and lowest credit requirements. Allow eligibility measures in high energy efficiency and renewables.
- Resident and commercial. Contractor based program with quality assurance.
- Also, partners with utilities.
- Unsecure loans. Minimum credit required 600. Allows for more people to participate.
- First 8 years \$100M, last few years \$300M
- Credit challenged customers in energy burden communities. Minority owned businesses/contractors.
  - Credit unions with lowest rates and low credit thresholds.
  - Work with utilities for on-bill financing.
    - Instead of using a credit score, customers with a payment history with the utility will qualify for financing and it will go on their monthly bill.
  - Minority owned business outreach and training program to recruit more business owners.
- Example project: homeowner needs a new roof. Loan will cover roof, solar installation, and interface/integration. The only requirement is that the roof needs to be energy star rated or equivalent.
- Standard loan with monthly payments for the borrower. MI Saves is responsible for defaults. People investing in energy efficiency and renewables typically don't default. They have had a good success rate.
- Top 3 projects
  - Heating and Cooling Equipment
  - Solar
  - Windows
- Actively working on advocating for the removal of the 1% cap or raise the cap.
- Electrification- heat pumps
  - It is coming in a big wave. Building Performance Association Conference had many sessions on heat pumps (manufacturing and contractors). Discussion also around incentivizing heat pumps.
  - Not enough contactors that have the qualifications to do it.
  - Conversion from natural gas to heat pump.
    - Size of duct system to be modified.
    - Increase in electrical load.
    - MI Saves in perfect position to help out due to cost of converting systems.

5. Public Comment - None

6. Community Garden Workgroup - Tom Regan

- Top locations for community garden for those interested starting this spring (80 people).
  - ROHS
  - Worden Park
  - Starr Jaycee Park
  - Church Hill
- Planning for 2022 grow season. Pick a site and kill grass this Fall 2021.
- Next steps for community garden workgroup are unclear.

- Staff were concerned with the Lindell ice arena due to vandalism.
- Park selection could be based on park improvement project after discussion with staff. Possibly Exchange Park.
- A. Filipski will have more information in the Fall in regards to a potential location.
  - Work generated from the workgroup will be included with staff discussions.
- Other concerns from staff:
  - Equitable access management
  - Costs
  - Neighbors
- Site selection needed to rally around for fundraising, engagement of group and future planning.
- Since staff has limited resources, workgroup could provide proposal/operation plan (addressing areas of concern and information needed for planning). It will keep the workgroup engaged and help staff with implementation.

#### 7. Royal Oak Tree Canopy - Ann Bueche

- A. Bueche working on an urban forest management plan
- Tree planting 3 year plan
  - Diverse native tree species
  - Easement
  - Tree gaps (consultant/community residents)
  - Community engagement with new trees
  - Education
- Tree workgroup for planning/policy/ordinances. Working on these items prior to bringing them to the S-CAP focus group.
- Goals & Objectives approved by the City Commission.
  - Increase tree canopy.
  - MI Urban Forestry Goal of 40%. Royal Oak is at 30.5-30%
- Congressman Levin Office chose Enhancing Tree Canopy for Health and Resilience in Royal Oak for Congressional Appropriation Committee. Money will be used to buy trees and to inventory the tree canopy.

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

- Bees in the D: 2 hives locations identified in Normandy Oaks Park.
- Arbor Day Celebration at 10:30A at the Senior Community Center.
- Next week 30 lead service lines will be replaced.
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#### 9. Energy and Sustainability Manager Report - Julie Lyons Bricker

- LED lighting grant for Royal Oak Public Library was approved.
- T. Regan will help with the Bicycle Friendly Community Application

#### 10. City Commissioner Report - Shar Douglas

- Made an offer to city attorney, Aaron Leal, start June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- New meter parking system.
- 50 dog bite cases in the city (increase from previous years).

11. Fugitive Dust Workgroup - Amanda Herzog

- No update.

12. S-CAP Workgroup - Julie Lyons Bricker

- Ann Bueche joined the S-CAP group
- SmithGroup has been hired to help with planning of the S-CAP
- J. Lyons Bricker, A. Herzog and P. Vial will be presenting at the Royal Oak Democratic Club on the Royal Oak Sustainability and Climate Action Plan.
- J. Lyons Bricker is working on the S-CAP website to engage the community.

13. Other Updates/Discussion

- Observation that garbage trucks are picking up recycling.
  - Mostly, these are split bodied trucks that can pickup both trash & recycling.
  - This will be addressed on the city website.
- Looking for volunteers to post on Facebook or Instagram.
- Information will be posted on Facebook about Line 5 rally on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

14. Non-Action Items

- SOCRRA Refuse/Recycling Tonnage Report - March 2021

15. Next Meeting May 26, 2021

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

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

NAYS: (0)