

**Environmental Advisory Committee**  
**January 16, 2020 at 7 pm**  
**Huntington Woods City Hall**  
**Minutes**  
**Call to Order: 7:05 pm**

**1. Attendance:**

<b>Member</b>	
Julie Petrik	Excused
Daniel Brooks	Excused
Mari Masalin-Cooper (Secretary)	x
Sarah Jo Sautter	Excused
Bridget McKinley	X
Saulius Mikalonis	
Aaron Retish	X
Ben Falik (Chair)	X
David Egan	X
Sophie Hart (student representative)	X
Jeff Jenks (Commission Liaison)	X
Amy Hood (DPW)	
Amy Sullivan (City Manager)	X
<b>Public Participants:</b>	
	Aaron Ahuria
	Aura Ahuria

**2. Approval of November 2019 Minutes** - Unanimous approval

**3. Food compost media campaign-** Tabled until February. Bridget can put the ideas that the intern found and create an infographic so they are ready to use when the campaign starts

**4. Green Infrastructure:**

- a. Sustainability bonus concept – need more discussion on what to encourage and what incentives could be used. Some ideas from the Committee on how to encourage a smaller carbon footprint: promote Meijer’s going bag-less campaign; cap the amount of trash that can be collected; comparison of water use to your neighbors; encourage lowering home thermostat; subsidize programmable thermostat; challenge of thermostat conversion; encourage replacing concrete with pavers; city-sponsored tree sale; encourage putting porchlights on a motion sensor; rain barrels; rain garden; compost bin; environment friendly fertilizers; encourage more composting; solar energy; geothermal heating; insulation higher than minimum; energy efficient windows and appliances; workshops by DTE and Consumer Energy on energy efficiency; use HARP to LED conversation and caulking for seniors

**5. Zoning Ordinance**

- a. Solar ordinance review update – The Committee discussed what kind of front facing aesthetic restrictions should be adopted and considered language that panels need to replicate shingle color. Tabled for more discussion.
- b. Ordinance on application of pesticides and fertilizers update – the ordinance will be adopted by the City Commission at their next meeting.

**6. Public Participation**

Aura and Aaron Ahuria are residents on Dundee appearing before Planning Commission for approval to add solar panels to their home. Cost approx. \$36,000, to get the full benefit of solar must be on the front of the house - without front facing panels will reduce energy by 10%.

- a. They had a PowerPoint with the following comments – historically what seems out of place at first becomes normalized over time. Same will probably occur with solar panels so won't have negative stigma on property values as assumed. Putting panels on the front of the home will encourage more residents to follow suit and install them too. The Planning Commission should have to provide proof that they lower property values before relying on it for justification to deny. Panels that replicate the roof are cost prohibitive.
- b. Bridget and Jeff feel that aesthetics are important to the community so need to be taken into consideration.
- c. David - HW ordinance restricts or is a barrier to adapting solar.
- d. Amy S. noted some solar panels are integrated shingles but due to cost, would only be appropriate if the roof was going to be removed and for new builds.
- e. Ben F. wants to show support by attending the Planning Commission meeting to discuss. Jeff J. feels the residents would be in support of adding solar to homes. Ben F. suggested to the Ahuria's that they discuss the proposal with their neighbors and get support or ask realtors if there is an impact on property values.
- f. Amy S. concerns that proposed solar ordinance reconsider language that says the panels shall "Faithfully replicate the appearance of standard roofing material or minimize glare or be a uniform color or minimum contracts "because it is not clear if that solar panels and frames need to be the same color or the panels and the roof.
- g. Aaron R. - our proposed ordinance is still very restrictive. Orin would be willing to be a demonstrator home.
- h. Solar is built on replacing existing energy usage. Ben F. is concerned about what will compel the Planning Commission to provide approval for a homeowner to get off the grid.

**7. New Business** – None

**8. Committee member remarks** – None

**9. Next meeting:** February 20th at 7 p.m. at City Hall

**10. Adjournment:** 8:42p.m.