

1. Sustainability Commission Agenda

Documents:

[1.21.26 AGENDA.PDF](#)

2. Planning Commission Packet

Documents:

[1.21.26 MEETING PACKET.PDF](#)



**CITY OF**  
**Sterling Heights**

InnovatingLiving

**CITY OF STERLING HEIGHTS**  
**SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**  
**AGENDA FOR JANUARY 21, 2026**

**Members**

Riley Maher	Jennifer Flemming
Mark Graf	Sarah Fisher
Jonathan Matthews	Cathleen Francois
Matthew Smith	Chris Goedecke
Nethanya Fonseka	Nathan Inks

**Meeting Location:**  
Sterling Heights City Hall  
40555 Utica Road  
6:00 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. CONSIDERATIONS
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. December 17, 2025
7. CORRESPONDENCE
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - A. REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE COMMITTEE – JONATHAN MATTHEWS
  - B. ELECTRIFICATION, EFFICIENCY, AND WEATHERIZATION COMMITTEE – NATHAN INKS
  - C. STORMWATER AND WETLANDS COMMITTEE – MATTHEW SMITH
  - D. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – CHRIS GOEDEKKE
  - E. TREES COMMITTEE – NATHAN INKS
  - F. NEW COMMITTEE DISCUSSION
9. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. SUSTAINABILITY PLAN UPDATE
  - B. SCOAR TOP 15 ACTION ITEMS
10. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. SUBCOMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENTS
  - B. 2025 ANNUAL REPORT
11. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
12. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE: February 18, 2026

Alexis Weinberg, Sustainability Planner

On behalf of the City of Sterling Heights Sustainability Commission

THE CITY OF STERLING HEIGHTS WILL PROVIDE NECESSARY REASONABLE AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AT THE MEETING UPON SEVEN DAYS NOTICE TO THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE AT 586-446-2470.

**Members**

Riley Maher	Jennifer Flemming
Mark Graf	Sarah Fisher
Jonathan Matthews	Cathleen Francois
Matthew Smith	Chris Goedekke
Nethanya Fonseka	Nathan Inks

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Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle (Committee Chair: Jonathan Matthews):

Electrification, Efficiency, & Weatherization (Committee Chair: Nathan Inks):

Stormwater & Wetlands (Committee Chair: Matt Smith):

Biodiversity Conservation (Committee Chair: Chris Goedekke):

Trees (Committee Chair: Nathan Inks):

Outreach and Events (Sarah Fisher):



# SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

## -2025-



# MEMBERSHIP

Commissioner	Original appointment date	Current term expires
Nathan Inks	September 1, 2020	June 30, 2027
Mark Graf	July 21, 2020	June 30, 2026
Jonathan Matthews	July 21, 2020	June 30, 2026
Sarah Fisher	July 1, 2025	June 30, 2028
Riley Maher	August 15, 2023	June 30, 2028
Matthew S Smith	September 5, 2023	June 30, 2028
Cathleen Francois	July 1, 2024	June 30, 2027
Christopher Goeddeke	August 6, 2024	June 30, 2027
Jennifer Fleming	December 30, 2023	June 30, 2026
Nethanya Fonseka	July 1, 2024	June 30, 2027
Mike Tabbert	November 3, 2021	June 30, 2025
Sheryl Burns	September 5, 2023	Resigned July 16, 2025
Staff		
Alexis Weinberg	Sustainability Planner - Liaison	
Ryan M Fox	Planner II - Liaison	
Emily Quenneville	Sustainability Intern (Summer 2025)	
Beneditto Bono	Planning Intern (Summer 2025)	

# COMMITTEES

Committee Name	Committee Chair	Membership
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (R <sup>3</sup> ) Committee	Jonathan Matthews	Sarah Fisher, Riley Maher, Mike Tabbert
Electrification and Weatherization	Nathan Inks	Jonathan Matthews, Matthew S Smith
Stormwater & Wetlands	Matthew S Smith	Mark Graf, Nathan Inks
Biodiversity Conservation	Christopher Geoddeke	Sheryl Burns, Jennifer Fleming, Nethanya Fonseka, Cathleen Francois, Riley Maher
Trees	Nathan Inks	Nethanya Fonseka, Mark Graf, Riley Maher, Jonathan Matthews, Matthew S Smith
Outreach and Events	Sarah Fisher	Jennifer Fleming

# PURPOSE OF ANNUAL REPORT

Article III Division 3 Chapter 2-150.62.G.2 of the Zoning Ordinance States that the Vice Chairperson of the Sustainability Commission shall prepare an annual report with assistance from other members summarizing the activities of the Commission for delivery to the City Council.

The Annual Report is intended to cover the activities of the Commission and its Committees, highlighting recommendations to Council and topics of debate. This year the Sustainability Commission conducted review and worked on a revision to the City's Sustainability Plan, along with conducting research and providing recommendations to City Staff and City Council.

# PURPOSE

Pursuant to its City Charter authority to establish advisory boards and commissions, the City Council has determined that establishing a sustainability commission for the following purposes will serve and support the city's sustainability responsibilities and be beneficial for the City of Sterling Heights:

1. To advise and make recommendations to the City Council and City Manager on the city's long-range goals, policies, and programs on all matters pertaining to sustainability, including matters referred to the Commission for study as well as matters initiated by the Commission of its own accord;
2. To develop and advise the City Council on implementation of community-wide strategies regarding waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable growth and development;
3. To create a model of sustainability through efforts to advocate, educate, and promote the social, economic, and environmental health of the community, now and into the future;
4. To develop and implement public recognition programs promoting individual property and neighborhood level sustainability projects;
5. To develop educational materials and/or public campaigns regarding litter reduction, recycling, and sustainable yard and property enhancements;
6. To work in collaboration with city staff, officials, and existing city nonprofit partners to determine annual city and community priorities, projects, and resources relative to sustainability issues that improve the environment, save the city money, or reduce the city's carbon footprint;
7. To assist city staff with the engagement of the city's residents and businesses in sustainability initiatives;
8. To broaden the lens and scope of energy and environmental needs in the future such as wind, solar, clean air, water, and improving infrastructure;
9. To study and propose climate action planning, reduction of municipal energy consumption, increasing alternative energy use, and encouraging residential cultural change to embrace individual actions to help the city attain its long-term sustainability goals;
10. To recognize natural resources as chief assets of the city and encourage responsible stewardship of these assets;
11. To collaborate with state, county, and local officials, businesses, community organizations, developers, residents, educational agencies, and experts to complete studies, develop educational programs, establish volunteer programs, and identify grants;
12. To research initiatives outside of the city to determine how other communities are addressing sustainability;
13. To review the city's current plans and policies, and assist with planning, implementation, community engagement, goal setting, and progress monitoring;
14. To provide access for comment and input from residents and businesses in the city;
15. To offer recommendations for policy updates and revisions;
16. To educate and inform residents and facilitate sustainable practices that enable smart choices for the city and its residents which lead to a reduction of the city's carbon footprint while promoting, through education, outreach, and awareness efforts, the conservation of energy, water, and fuel; improvement of air, climate, and water quality; investment in renewable energy; reduction of waste; and protecting and restoring the community's natural resources;
17. To prioritize sustainability policies;
18. To create a Sustainability Plan by the end of its first year of existence, and thereafter update and maintain a three-year sustainability plan that outlines specific areas for City Council to study and the Commission's recommendations relating to those areas; and
19. To advise the City Council on any other issues and best practices related to sustainability as deemed appropriate by the Commission

# 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE & ATTENDANCE

## January 15, 2025

Members Present: Goeddeke, Inks, Matthews, Tabbert, Smith

Members Absent: Burns, Fonseka, Graf, Maher

## February 19, 2025

Members Present: Burns, Fonseka, Francois, Graf, Inks, Maher, Matthews, Tabbert, Smith

Members Absent: Goeddeke

## March 19, 2025

Members Present: Burns, Fonseka, Francois, Goeddeke, Graf, Inks, Maher, Matthews, Tabbert, Smith

Members Absent: None

## April 16, 2025

Members Present: Francois, Goeddeke, Inks, Maher, Matthews, Tabbert, Smith

Members Absent: Burns, Fonseka, Graf

## May 21, 2025

Members Present: Burns, Fonseka, Francois, Graf, Inks, Maher, Matthews, Tabbert, Smith

Members Absent: Goeddeke

## June 18, 2025

Members Present: Fonseka, Goeddeke, Graf, Inks, Maher, Matthews, Tabbert

Members Absent: Burns, Francois, Smith

## July 16, 2025

Members Present: Fisher, Francois, Goeddeke, Graf, Inks, Maher, Matthews, Smith

Members Absent: Fonseka

## August 20, 2025

Members Present: Fisher, Fonseka, Goeddeke, Graf, Inks, Maher, Matthews, Smith

Members Absent: Francois

## September 17, 2025

Members Present: Fisher, Fleming, Francois, Goeddeke, Graf, Inks, Maher, Matthews, Smith

Members Absent: Fonseka

## October 15, 2025

Meeting Cancelled

## November 19, 2025

Members Present: Fisher, Fleming, Graf, Inks, Maher, Matthews, Smith

Members Absent: Fonseka, Goeddeke

## December 17, 2025

Members Present: Fisher, Fleming, Goeddeke, Graf, Inks, Maher, Matthews

Members Absent: Fonseka, Francois, Smith



# MEETING SCHEDULE & CASES

January 15, 2025

Agenda Items	
5.A Solar Ordinance	The Commission considered providing a recommendation on a draft solar panel ordinance to be provided to the City Council. Specific attention was paid to how the draft ordinance would effect and interact with Section 26.02(B) of the Zoning Ordinance.  Action: Postponed, due to a lack of membership present.
9.A Top 15 Action Items (SCOAR)	The Commission conducted its semi regular assessment of updates on the Top 15 Action Items identified in the 2021 Sustainability Plan, based on updates from efforts by the Office of Planning.
Subcommittees	
R <sup>3</sup> Committee	The R <sup>3</sup> Committee had no update in January.
Green Energy Committee	The Green Energy Committee discussed the solar panel ordinance but had no further report.
Stormwater & Wetlands Committee	Mrs. Weinberg detailed to the Commission that the City had applied for a grant to provide technical assistance for designing green infrastructure throughout the City. The City is also actively seeking additional funding opportunities to install green infrastructure.
Biodiversity Conservation Committee	The Committee had no update in January
Trees Committee	The Commission discussed the up to date status of TreeKeeper, ensuring that trees are removed from the system when removed. Discussion was also had regarding the Arbor Day 2025 event. The Office of Planning provided a detailed update regarding the Spring 2025 Plantings as well as grant funded trees to be planted in Arlingdale Park.

February 19, 2025

Agenda Items	
5.A Solar Ordinance Amendment to Zoning Ordinance	The Commission considered providing a recommendation on a draft solar panel ordinance to be provided to the City Council. Discussion was had on specific technical definitions within the ordinance. The Commission believed it would be appropriate to allow the City Attorney's Office to provide guidance on specific legal definitions within the ordinance.  Action: Motion to Recommend the Ordinance to City Council (8-0)
9.A Climate Action Plan	An update was given to the Commission on the newly adopted Climate Action Plan. Several sustainability projects in line with the Climate Action Plan were discussed including building renovations and recycling procedures.
9.B Master Land Use Plan Update	The Commission was informed on how to provide comment on the Master Land Use Plan, which had just entered its public comment period. Discussion was had on general sustainability efforts in relation to the Master Land Use Plan.
9.C Newsletter	Sustainability Newsletter was released to the public. The Commission discussed potential topics.
Subcommittees	
R <sup>3</sup> Committee	The Committee has conducted research into the MI Green Schools process, and discussion was had on how to get Sterling Heights Schools to register as a Green School.
Green Energy Committee	The Committee had no additional report beyond the solar panel ordinance.
Stormwater & Wetlands Committee	The Commission discussed that Sterling Heights was invited to participate in the MDHHS and MSU Climate Health and Adaptation Planning Technical Assistance Project.
Biodiversity Conservation Committee	The Committee had no report in February
Trees Committee	The Committee discussed plantings at Nelson Park in conjunction with the Community Garden. Further discussion was had regarding the 2025 Arbor Day Event on April 26 <sup>th</sup> .

**March 19, 2025**

Agenda Items	
<b>9.A Master Land Use Plan Update</b>	The Commission discussed feedback for the Master Land Use Plan. Further discussion was had on recycling at city events, as well as renovations to Fire Station #5.
<b>9.B Michigan Climate and Health Adaptation Program Technical Assistance</b>	The Commission was given more details, as well as ways to participate in technical assistance to be provided to the City through MDHHS and MSU. Three public engagement events to be held throughout 2025 and 2026 are discussed, where feedback would be gathered from the public. The Office of Planning expects that the North Van Dyke Avenue District will be an area of focus.
<b>10.A Community Garden Grand Opening</b>	A timeline was laid out for the rest of 2025, with the Community Garden Grand Opening being one of the major events earlier in the year. The Commission planned to hand out trees at the Library Earth Day event and at the Community Garden Grand Opening. Other topics were discussed as well such as the Sustainability Plan Update.
Subcommittees	
<b>R<sup>3</sup> Committee</b>	The Committee investigated how Athens High School in Troy had achieved emerald status with the MI Green Schools program. Discussion was had on how to partner with schools in Sterling Heights.
<b>Green Energy Committee</b>	The Committee is monitoring the status of the solar panel ordinance.
<b>Stormwater &amp; Wetlands Committee</b>	Extended conversation is had regarding MDHHS research efforts.
<b>Biodiversity Conservation Committee</b>	Communications with residents for the spring tree plantings are discussed in great detail, including handouts and door hangers.
<b>Trees Committee</b>	Funding sources for the 2025 and 2026 tree planting efforts are discussed, as well as arbor day seedling giveaways.

**April 16, 2025**

Agenda Items	
<b>10.A Michigan Green Communities Challenge Annual Submission</b>	The Commission conducted a review and analysis to ensure the City was ready to apply for Gold Status in the MI Green Communities Challenge. Several initiatives were discussed in detail as part of the review.
Subcommittees	
<b>R<sup>3</sup> Committee</b>	The Committee has engaged with residents on what qualifies as “electronics,” in terms of waste disposal for an upcoming event hosted by DPW. Discussion is also had on the fate of land which used to be utilized as the recycling center on Clinton River Road.
<b>Green Energy Committee</b>	The Committee had no additional report outside of the solar panel ordinance.
<b>Stormwater &amp; Wetlands Committee</b>	The Committee had no report in April.
<b>Biodiversity Conservation Committee</b>	The Committee had no report in April
<b>Trees Committee</b>	Extensive conversation was had regarding the commencement of tree plantings for the Spring 2025 Planting Season. Plantings in Nelson Park, Dodge Park, and in the area of Irving Road were also discussed in detail.

## May 21, 2025

Agenda Items	
<b>9.E Sustainability Plan Update</b>	This item was the first regular check in the Commission would have to discuss goals, revisions, and additions to the Sustainability Plan. This occurs regularly at every meeting going forward.
<b>9.F MICHAP Technical Assistance Event May 20</b>	The Commission was given an update on an upcoming public engagement event for the MICHAP stormwater planning technical assistance program. The event is scheduled on May 20 <sup>th</sup> at Velocity.
Subcommittees	
<b>R<sup>3</sup> Committee</b>	The Commission discussed an upcoming education event being hosted by the City to educate restaurants about Too Good To Go and other food waste reduction methods.
<b>Electrification, Efficiency, and Weatherization Committee</b>	Conversation is had regarding the Committees goals and objectives, and the name is changed. Discussion is had regarding solar panels being installed on City facilities and EV charging stations.
<b>Stormwater &amp; Wetlands Committee</b>	Discussion was had on a \$300,000 study was approved by council regarding a stormwater utility ordinance. The Commission discussed the positives of a utility for green infrastructure.
<b>Biodiversity Conservation Committee</b>	The Committee had no report for May
<b>Trees</b>	The Community Garden and Microforest were discussed in detail, including positives and challenges to the two initiatives. The Commission was also given an update on how many complaints the City has received regarding spring plantings, and the complaints are minimal.

## June 18, 2025

Agenda Items	
<b>9.A Sustainability Plan Update</b>	Several topics are discussed in relation to the Sustainability Plan update, including a more graphics focused design. Further conversation is had on data tracking in the plan, as well as communication for the Green House Gas information compiled by the City in the last inventory.
Subcommittees	
<b>R<sup>3</sup> Committee</b>	Discussion was had on the amount of waste SOCRRRA has recycled in 2024, as well as what would get materials rejected by the recycling center. Further discussion was had on educating the public on what is recyclable and what is not.
<b>Electrification, Efficiency, and Weatherization Committee</b>	Community EV Charging Stations were discussed, specifically the pricing and timetable for installation.
<b>Stormwater &amp; Wetlands Committee</b>	The Committee had no report for June.
<b>Biodiversity Conservation Committee</b>	Discussion was had regarding the distribution of online education materials prepared by the Committee.
<b>Trees</b>	Discussion was had regarding elm trees, and the uploading of information about elm trees into TreeKeeper. Discussion is also had on tree site selection when it comes to the Spring Planting program.

July 16, 2025

Agenda Items	
9.C Restaurant Food Waste Reduction Info Session Follow Up	The Commission received an update and discussed the success of the food waste reduction info session held for business owners in Sterling Heights. Potential way to continue food waste reduction efforts were also discussed, including celebrating restaurants that reduce food waste via a sticker program.
9.E Sustainability & Resiliency Excellence Award from Michigan Association of Planners	The Climate Action Plan created by the Commission in 2024 has received the Excellency in Sustainability & Resiliency Award from the Michigan Association of Planners, chosen by a panel of judges based in Texas. This is the second time work produced in part by the Commission has received this award, with the 2021 Sustainability Plan receiving the award in 2022.
10.C Bylaws	Discussion is had on the creation and adoption of Bylaws for the Commission. The merits of such bylaws are discussed in regards to reporting, as well as submission deadlines for agenda items.  Action: The Commission agreed to explore the creation of bylaws.
Subcommittees	
R <sup>3</sup> Committee	Discussion is had on potential partner organizations for the City such as "SEMI Reduces" on waste reduction initiatives. Priority waste is also discussed.
Electrification, Efficiency, and Weatherization Committee	Discussion is had on the cessation of federal tax credits for solar panel installation, and how that might effect future City efforts to install solar.
Stormwater & Wetlands Committee	The Committee had no report in July.
Biodiversity Conservation Committee	Mr. Goeddeke took over as chair of the Committee after Ms. Burns' resignation. Discussion was had on education materials prepared by the Committee.
Trees Committee	Discussion is had on proper planting techniques for trees, as well as locations for potential locations to allocate grant funding in the future.

August 26, 2025

Agenda Items	
10.A Wetland Restoration Behind Recycling Center	Discussion is had regarding a potential wetland restoration opportunity behind the former recycling center, which could assist with combatting mosquito populations in Dodge Park.
10.E Catalyst Communities: Pathway to Play and Preservation	The Commission discussed the recent webinar where the Office of Planning and Community Relations Department presented on the Pathways to Play and Preservation Millage passed by Sterling Heights voters in 2024.
Subcommittees	
R <sup>3</sup> Committee	The Committee discussed an application they prepared in tandem with the Office of Planning regarding launching a composting pilot to be hosted at City Hall. Logistical conversations were had about bin locations, size, scale, and odor reduction.
Electrification, Efficiency, and Weatherization Committee	The Commission discussed the latest updates in regards to the solar panel ordinance. The Commission also discussed the potentially pursuing SolSmart certification, which would likely involve a SolSmart Committee or Task Force.
Stormwater & Wetlands Committee	Conversation was had regarding recent watermain bursts, and potential future risks to City infrastructure.
Biodiversity Conservation Committee	The Committee had no report for August.
Trees Committee	Discussion is had on future grant planting locations for trees, specifically around City Bus Stops. Further discussion is had about other bus stop improvements proposed throughout the City.

**September 23, 2025**

Agenda Items	
<b>10.A Clinton Clean Up 2026</b>	Conversations began for the City to partner with the Clinton River Watershed to host a Clinton River Clean Up event in April of 2026. Logistics of volunteers and materials were discussed in length.
Subcommittees	
<b>R<sup>3</sup> Committee</b>	The Committee plans to canvas several local businesses to gauge interest in public education campaigns for waste reduction.
<b>Electrification, Efficiency, and Weatherization Committee</b>	The Committee celebrated the adoption of the solar panel ordinance. Discussion was had on the installation of solar panels at City facilities.
<b>Stormwater &amp; Wetlands Committee</b>	The Committee discussed participation in the second public engagement event for MICHAP Green Infrastructure Technical Assistance program.
<b>Biodiversity Conservation Committee</b>	The Committee discussed the creation of the Sterling Green Award by the Beautification Commission. Discussion was also had regarding the removal of a grove of invasive Russian Olive trees near Van Dyke Avenue.
<b>Trees Committee</b>	Discussion was had on maintenance for the Microforest, with suggestion that the BCC may be able to provide assistance. The Commission also discussed the beginning of Fall Plantings.

**October 15, 2025**

Cancelled - No Business
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**November 19, 2025**

Agenda Items	
<b>9.B Michigan Environmental Justice Conference Recap</b>	The Commission discussed the lessons learned from the first ever Michigan Environmental Justice Conference. Further conversations are had regarding the potential for future participation.
<b>10.B Traffic Safety Town Hall Recap</b>	The Commission discussed the October 15 <sup>th</sup> town hall regarding traffic safety in the City. Further conversation was had about Sustainable Mobility in general, including non motorized travel.
Subcommittees	
<b>R<sup>3</sup> Committee</b>	The Committee has been engaging with local restaurant owners in regards to Sustainability. Additional conversation is had in regards to the Sustain Macomb program.
<b>Electrification, Efficiency, and Weatherization Committee</b>	The Committee continued to review seeking Sol Smart certification. The City also announced a \$40,000 a year reduction in energy bills due to working with DTE on rates. Discussion was had potentially reallocating the \$40,000 for energy saving projects.
<b>Stormwater &amp; Wetlands Committee</b>	The Committee discussed recent efforts by SEMCOG to study storm water mitigation within the City, specifically in a property on Metro Parkway.
<b>Biodiversity Conservation Committee</b>	The Committee had no report in November.
<b>Trees Committee</b>	The Committee discussed the success of the fall plantings, as well as plans for Arbor Day in 2026.

Agenda Items	
<b>10.A PPP Public Engagement Results</b>	The Commission discussed the results of the PPP Public Engagement event that was held in November. Feedback was received regarding property acquisition, as well as funding priorities for PPP Millage purchases.
Subcommittees	
<b>R<sup>3</sup> Committee</b>	The Committee had no report in December.
<b>Electrification, Efficiency, and Weatherization Committee</b>	The Committee had no report in December.
<b>Stormwater &amp; Wetlands Committee</b>	The Committee had no report in December.
<b>Biodiversity Conservation Committee</b>	Discussion was had on a potential effort for the Commission to support, raising funds for the Sibley Prairie Preservation Effort being led by DTE.
<b>Trees Committee</b>	Discussion was had on how TreeKeeper will display the proposed areas for tree plantings in 2026, using polygons instead of identifying individual houses.
<b>Outreach and Events Committee</b>	The Committee was created, with the goal of launching educational events for residents as well as supporting Arbor Day celebrations.

## SUMMARY

In 2025 the Commission met a grand total of 11 times in 12 months. The Commission conducted research on a number of topics that affect Sterling Heights residents. The Commission helped draft a new solar panel ordinance, that opens the door for future green energy projects in the City. The Commission also provided invaluable feedback to the Office of Planning on topics such as stormwater runoff and land acquisition.



# **Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes**

**December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Attendees:** Sarah Fisher, Jennifer Flemming, Christopher Goeddeke, Mark Graf, Nathan Inks, Riley Maher, and Jonathan Matthews.

**Absent:** Nethanya Fonseka, Cathleen Francois, and Matthew Smith.

*Speakers may be referred to by initials. Speech attributed to speakers is paraphrased unless quoted. City Council, Department of Public Works, Green For Life, Sterling Heights, and Sterling Heights Sustainability Commission may be abbreviated as CC, DPW, GFL, SH, and SHSC, respectively.*

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## **1. Call to Order – 18:01**

## **2. Pledge of Allegiance – 18:01.**

## **3. Roll Call – Sarah Fisher, Jennifer Flemming, Christopher Goeddeke, Mark Graf, Nathan Inks, Riley Maher, and Jonathan Matthews.**

Also in Attendance: Alexis Weinberg, Sustainability Planner  
Ryan Fox, Planner II

## **4. Approval of Agenda – 18:02**

**Motion:** Jonathan Matthews

**Support:** Sarah Fisher

**Ayes:** Flemming, Goeddeke, Graf, Inks, and Maher

## **5. Considerations – 18:03**

There were no considerations for the Commission.

## **6. Approval of Minutes from November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Motion:** Riley Maher

**Support:** Nathan Inks

**Ayes:** Fisher, Flemming, Goeddeke, Graf, Maher, and Matthews

## **7. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence shared with the Commission.

## **8. Committee Reports – 18:04**

### **a. R<sup>3</sup> Committee – 18:04**

There was nothing new to report on from this committee.

### **b. Electrification, Efficiency, and Weatherization – 18:04**

There was nothing new to report on from this committee.

Holding pattern with EV chargers.

**c. Stormwater and Wetlands – 18:05**

There was nothing new to report on from this committee.

**d. Biodiversity Conservation – 18:06**

Mr. Maher informed everyone that Sibley Prairie is the target of a sustainability effort from DTE, seeking roughly \$6,000,000 in donations.

**e. Trees – 18:08**

Mrs. Weinberg updated the committee that instead of Tree Keeper doing dots by house now, there will be small regions shaded in. She added that SHSC viewed some of this in practice and the change was positively received.

Mr. Graf asked if Sterling Heights is alone with Tree Keeper now. Mrs. Weinberg replied that the City is still working with Davey and the subscription will be up in 2027. Mr. Matthews asked if the subscription needs to be renewed far in advance. Mrs. Weinberg answered that no it doesn't, but it will need to be a part of the Sterling Heights budget this year and informs the committee that Strategic Planning will take place on Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Graf informed the committee that the right-of-way trees on the islands at 17 Mile Road will be exposed to a surfeit of salt and he asked if this was taken into consideration. To which, Mr. Fox confirms that yes it has been taken into consideration.

.....

Mr. Inks informed the committee that there is some desire to create an **Outreach and Events** committee. It is decided that Ms. Fisher will chair it, and Mrs. Flemmings will join her.

**9. Old Business – 18:24**

**a. Sustainability Plan Update**

*SHSC reviews the feedback documents together.*

**SHSC sets a goal to have the text edits to the Sustainability Plan finalized by the February meeting (2/18/26).**

SHSC decides to send the draft to the other commissions & committees.

**b. SCOAR Top 15 Action Items – 19:43**

*SHSC reviews the SWOT and action item documents, then determines it would be helpful to have the working document with the previous SHSC members' inputs, then expand the workbook to include the new members and rank anew.*



**10. New Business – 20:06**

**a. PPP Community Engagement Results**

Mrs. Weinberg informs the committee that around 40 residents attended. She adds that there were three exercises that pertained to purchasing of property through the millage, and there was a “1 commitment, 1 request” activity later.

In one activity, the community prioritized the following criteria

1. Wetlands
2. Wetland Restoration Opportunities
3. Floodway/Floodplain
4. Tree Canopy
5. Cost of Parcel
6. Proximity to Parks
7. Wildlife Interactions
8. Size of Parcel
9. Proximity to City-Owner Land
10. Proximity to Schools

Another activity was “Pick Your Property”, where participants were given 5 coins to allocate their funds between 3 property types: large-scale, small-scale and restoration. Most picked Large-Scale and Small-Scale at 29.7% and 34.8%, respectively, the remaining 25.4% went to Restoration.

The third activity allowed residents to design the types of green space they wanted to see within the city.

SHSC then reviewed the comments on sticky notes from “1 commitment, 1 request”.

**11. Citizen Participation.**

*None.*

**12. Adjournment. 20:51**

**Motion:** Jonathan Matthews

**Support:** Nathan Inks

**Ayes:** Fisher, Flemming, Goeddeke, Graf, Maher, and Maher.