

**Minutes  
Royal Oak Environmental Advisory Board Meeting  
Royal Oak Farmer's Market  
316 E 11 Mile Rd.  
Royal Oak, MI 48067**

**Wednesday, August 2nd, 2023  
7:00pm**

1. Chair Amanda Herzog called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. The agenda was approved unanimously.
3. May and June 2023 minutes were approved. The May minutes were corrected to note that the Helena Scott legislation refers to neonicotinoid pesticides.
4. Public Comment:
  - a. Huntington Woods resident David Sloan suggested that the city consider holding carbon-neutral parades. Amanda Herzog suggested that the city pursue a policy of having all its festivals carbon-neutral as well.
  - b. Andrew Sarpolis noted that State Representative Helena Scott will hold a hearing in her district 8/31 about DTE outages, and SEMCOG will develop a regional climate action plan.
5. New Business.
  - a. The resolution on renewable energy that Paul and Julie helped develop will be presented to city commissioners soon by staff.
  - b. The NGO developing a Pollinator Pathway cannot use the EAB logo.
  - c. The city Sustainability Manager position has been posted.
  - d. Woody Gontina asked that any Master Plan feedback be submitted this week.
  - e. We briefly discussed food waste composting. Aaron noted that it would likely be part of the new solid waste contract in 2027. We discussed encouraging backyard composting of fruit and vegetable scraps.
6. Director of Public Services and Recreation Report: Aaron Filipski.
  - a. Aaron noted that the DPS cannot put up fugitive dust signs at construction sites that state a requirement that the builder use water to control dust, because that would require a change in the city ordinance. Aaron suggested we allow the new Sustainability Manager to shepherd such an ordinance through the city bureaucracy. City Commissioner Brandon Kolo volunteered to add the item to a future city commission agenda if needed.
  - b. Susan Barkman will lead an inter-departmental team to find grants for EV chargers for both the city fleet and general public.
  - c. The Royal Oak Senior Center will attempt to implement a zero-waste kitchen.
  - d. Senator Gary Peters successfully earmarked a grant to build a resiliency hub in Royal Oak, staff is now investigating where to locate it.
7. City Commissioner Brandon Kolo (filling in for Kyle DuBuc) noted that commissioner Pat Paruch has entered hospice after a battle with cancer.

8. Unfinished business
  - a. Julie Lyons Bricker (Sustainability Project Manager for Oakland County)
    - i. Announced that she is sharing Royal Oak's sustainability plan for use as a template by smaller cities and townships.
    - ii. Announced that Royal Oak's Alchema restaurant won the "Make Food Not Waste" award.
    - iii. Announced that her office is working with Oakland county cities, towns and villages to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
    - iv. Announced an EV expo will be held in Oakland County August 17th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.