

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
WORKSHOP
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

WORKSHOP SESSION

This will be considered a workshop session of the City Commission. No formal actions will be taken. The purpose of this workshop is to participate in a discussion Sustainability and Leaf Blowers.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Therese Longe, Mayor

II. ROLL CALL

Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk

III. PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

- A. Introduction**
- B. Staff Presentation**
- C. City Commission Questions, Discussion and Comment**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. ADJOURN

This meeting is open to the public and the public is welcome to attend.

Should you wish to participate in this meeting, you are invited to attend the meeting in person or virtually through ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/655079760> Meeting ID: 655 079 760

You may also present your written statement to the City Commission, City of Birmingham, 151 Martin Street, P.O. Box 3001, Birmingham, Michigan 48012-3001 prior to the hearing.

NOTICE: Individuals requiring accommodations, such as mobility, visual, hearing, interpreter or other assistance, for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 (voice), or (248) 644-5115 (TDD) at least one day in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Las personas que requieren alojamiento, tales como servicios de interpretación, la participación efectiva en esta reunión deben ponerse en contacto con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al [\(248\) 530-1880](tel:2485301880) por lo menos el día antes de la reunión pública. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).

Environmental Sustainability & Leaf Blowers

Workshop

Planning Division

Presented by: Nicholas Dupuis
& Leah Blizinski

Date: October 3rd, 2022



Sustainability

- Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Planning for sustainability is a *responsibility*.
- Energy, buildings, mobility, water, waste, green space and quality of life.

Department of Energy, Great Lakes and the Environment

- Michigan Green Communities – 2009
- MI Clean Water Plan – 2020
- MI Healthy Climate – April 2022
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan – September 2022



Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)

- Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan – 2014
- Water Resources Plan for Southeast Michigan – 2018
- Electric Vehicle Resource Kit & Planning Hub – 2022

Oakland County

- Water Resources Commissioner
 - Stormwater Standards Work Group
- Rouge Green Corridor



Local Efforts

- Royal Oak
- Ferndale
- Huntington Woods
- Southfield
- Berkley
- Oak Park



Birmingham

- Michigan Green Communities
 - Silver Award – May 2022
- The Birmingham Plan 2040
 - Ch. 5 Advance Sustainability Practices



Board Members

- 7 members appointed by City Commission
 - Majority Birmingham residents
- Nonvoting members appointed by City Manager
 - May include: City Engineer, City Planner, DPS, Parks and Recreation
- Voting members should have significant experience in topics including but not limited to:
 - stormwater management, green infrastructure, water quality, natural resources, energy efficiency, renewable energy, electric vehicles, waste & recycling and public health

Board Activities

- Provide review of all regionally significant plans and documents related to environmental sustainability.
- Provide recommendations for ordinance updates related to environmental sustainability.
- Study topics of local environmental concern and make recommendations to the City Commission for action.
- Study the feasibility of adding electric vehicle charging stations throughout the city at garages, public parking lots, and on-street in Mixed-use Districts.
- Develop strategies to implement sustainability-related key action items from the Birmingham Plan 2040 with a new standalone sustainability/climate action plan.

Leaf Blowers

- Many communities in the United States have been restricting or banning leaf blowers.
- 2-Stroke Engines have not evolved since the 1950's.
- Increases in the number of people at home experiencing the side effects.
- The philosophy of well manicured lawns.

Problems

- Emissions
 - Public Health
 - Water Quality
- Noise
 - Decibel Levels
 - Low Frequency
- Environment
 - Biodiversity



Solutions

- How should the City of Birmingham address the problem of leaf blowers?
 - Noise ordinance amendments
 - Restrictions on usage
 - Phase out
 - Total ban
 - Other?

