

MIGREENPOWER COMMUNITY IMPACT PILOT
LOW-INCOME SOLAR COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2025

Minutes transcribed from recording by Jessica Jamieson.

At 11:05 AM Chandler Kielbas asked the Council if they had reviewed the LISC meeting agenda and if any additions to the meeting agenda were needed, and there were none. Chandler asked the Council to motion to approve the meeting agenda. Janis Hazel moved to approve, and Darryl Folks seconded the motion. Chandler asked for a vote to approve the meeting agenda for the meeting on January 21, 2025, and the motion was unanimously approved.

At 11:06 AM Chandler Kielbas asked the Council if they had reviewed the meeting minutes from January 7, 2025, and asked if there were any changes to be made. Darryl Folks and Janis Hazel confirmed there were no changes to be made. Chandler then asked the Council to motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 7, 2025. Darryl moved and Will Kenworthy seconded it. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

At 11:07 AM Chandler Kielbas acknowledged a momentary technical difficulty that prevented Juan Shannon from unmuting his microphone. Chandler acknowledged that there was a new person joining the meetings and offered Sarah Hutchinson an opportunity to make an introduction. When Juan's technical difficulty was resolved, he mentioned that he had a few questions about the meeting minutes from January 7, 2025. Juan questioned if there were only two Pilot agreements signed with the Canton Community Foundation as mentioned in the meeting minutes from January 7, 2025, or if there were three Pilot agreements. Chandler explained that DTE has two separate solar pilots: The Community Impact Pilot and the Community Support Pilot. These were the two pilots mentioned in the meeting minutes from January 7, 2025. Juan also inquired where Organization 1898 is receiving their funds from. Chandler explained that Organization 1898 is a third-party vendor that works with DTE Energy's Land Development team, which has its own team and budget separate from the budget of the Community Impact Pilot. Juan was satisfied with the explanations.

At 11:15 AM Chandler Kielbas moved to discuss the 1898 presentation that will be taking place on February 4, 2025. Here, the 1898 team will be sharing four different models for what the Community Impact Pilot's land use could look like. Chandler mentioned that in the next meeting the LISC will decide which models to bring forth to the Marathon team to attempt to secure the Marathon land. Chandler then asked if there were any questions or comments. Janis Hazel inquired about the format of the Marathon models presented by the 1898 team and if they would be able to be viewed before the presentation. Chandler explained that 1898 would be coming with a presentation and there would be no necessary preparation beforehand. Janis then asked if Tepfirah Rushdan, the Director of the Detroit Office of Sustainability, should be invited to the meeting. Chandler confirmed that she is welcome to come to the meeting on February 4, 2025.

Janis then asked for more details on the 1898 team. Will Kenworthy answered that the 1898 team is a consulting firm associated with the architectural engineering firm Burns and McDonald. He explains that they work with a lot of big power systems, engineering, and consulting. Will provided Janis with the name "1898 & Co."; she had no further questions. Chandler inquired if the rest of the team had any more questions, and it was confirmed by Juan Shannon and Darryl Folks that there were none.

At 11:24 AM Chandler Kielbas began speaking about community engagement initiatives and turned it over to Janis Hazel. Janis detailed how she attended the Detroit Green Task Force monthly meeting on January 16, 2025, that generally went over sustainability ventures, environmental policy, and community updates on these matters with Scott Benson, who is interested in the Community Impact Pilot.

At 11:27 AM Chandler Kielbas began the discussion on land updates. Chandler asked Juan Shannon for an update on the meeting he attended with the Community Economic Director in Highland Park. Juan stated that Highland Park maintains there is no city property that can be allocated for the Community Impact Pilot. However, Juan explains that there are some DTE representatives who have been calling Highland Park representatives advocating for community solar. Chandler asked if Juan had any names of these DTE representatives. Juan responded that he did not, and Chandler asked if he found out to let him know. Chandler then asked Juan about a park or area that was mentioned in a previous meeting that could possibly be allocated for the solar array. Juan answers that the city has no interest in selling that land because the city was very clear that that area would be turned into a park. Juan said that he proposed to the City Council that the area could be turned into a park still with solar arrays within it or around it. Juan stated that if the Solar Council could convince both the city of Highland Park and other DTE representatives of this innovative plan that it would be a solution to the land issue for solar in Highland Park while continuing to have a green space for the Highland Park community. Juan then brought up another solution that involves buying private land from landowners and creating a plot big enough to build the arrays. Chandler then asked Juan if he planned to find some ideas for option one, invite an engineer, and create a mockup for the City Council of Highland Park to view. Juan confirmed that these would be some good first steps in the process. Juan also added that a draft rendering of an innovative design set up in a workshop could be helpful for getting a potential proposal through. Chandler then asked if Juan could provide him with the location of the Highland Park city-owned land and said that they could set up a meeting to get started with the innovative design. Juan agreed to this, and Chandler added it as an action item. Chandler then turned the conversation over to Darryl Folks to discuss what he had found about land opportunities in River Rouge. Darryl comments that it is challenging in River Rouge because DTE owns property there. Darryl also explains that there is very little communication between River Rouge and DTE. Chandler then asked if Darryl had any first steps in facilitating more communication with River Rouge. Darryl mentions that he would like to have a specific contact at River Rouge to speak about this project with. Chandler says that they can connect further on that with a representative from DTE's real-estate team to answer questions that River Rouge representatives have.

At 11:40 AM Chandler Kielbas moved on to the action item register topic. Chandler asked Janis Hazel if she had any updates on the potential presentation with EGLE. Janis stated that for a potential meeting with the EGLE team, they were looking at January 21, 2025. Janis said that now that the EGLE office had filed their environmental justice grants, they were more open to further meetings. She also said the EGLE office was interested in the solar project but that they were concerned about funding now that there is a new presidential administration. Chandler added an action item for himself and Juan to collaborate on the Highland Park opportunity. Chandler added one more item for himself and Darryl to connect with a DTE real estate representative. Chandler then asked if any more action items needed to be added to the list. Juan Shannon mentioned that he wanted to clarify that the Groundbreaking in Parker Village and the community Q&A were two separate events. Chandler asked if these were two separate dates as well and Juan confirmed that they were. Chandler stated that the Q&A should be held on April 9, 2025. Chandler confirmed that there was nothing else that needed to be added to the register.

At 11:46 AM Chandler Kielbas asked if there were any general questions or topics that people wanted to bring up. Juan Shannon announced that he had been sworn in as the Executive at Large for the Highland Park Branch of the NAACP and that he had been selected as the University of Michigan's inaugural Urban Sustainability and Justice Community Fellow. Chandler then announced that Eddie Smith has received a promotion to the regulatory department and will not be joining the Solar Council meetings in the future and that Kayla Maas would be stepping into that role. Chandler then reminds the Council that the 1898 presentation is on February 4, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 AM