

# ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

October 1, 2015

## CALL TO ORDER

Members of the Environmental Advisory Commission met on the above date at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Dr. David Kimmel, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. The following attended the meeting:

### 1. ROLL CALL

#### MEMBERS:

David Ames  
Ernest Larkin

Emilie Kane  
Jon Weaver

David Kimmel

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

Michael Cowin, City of Greenville  
Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville  
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

### 4. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Larkin to approve the September 3, 2015 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ames and passed unanimously.

### 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mrs. Kirby informed the group that the Watershed Master Plan update was postponed from the October meeting to the November meeting to allow for a presentation by the consultants of the project.
- Dr. Kimmel welcomed Mr. Jon Weaver as the newest member to the EAC.

### 6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

### 7. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Election of Officers

Dr. Kimmel requested nominations for the Chairperson of EAC. Dr. Ames nominated Dr. Kimmel as Chairperson. There were no further nominations. Dr. Larkin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Larkin nominated Dr. Kane as Vice-Chairperson. There were no further nominations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ames. The motion passed unanimously.

#### B. Street & Pedestrian Bond Information Presentation

Mr. Michael Cowin, Assistant City Manager for the City of Greenville, was present to update the Commission on the 2015 Street & Pedestrian Transportation and Improvement Bond. The bond will allow voters to decide if the City of Greenville should be authorized to raise money through the sale of bonds and issue debt to pay for certain street and pedestrian transportation

improvements. Mr. Cowin stated if growth in the tax base and other revenues cannot pay for the bonds, the tax rate would need to be raised about 2.25 cents per \$100 valuation. However, it is not the intention of the City to increase tax rates unless absolutely necessary.

The total bond amount being requested is \$15,850,000.00. This amount would allow funding for the following projects:

- a. Street Improvements (\$10,000,000.00) – Street improvements for milling, repair, and resurfacing. Streets being considered include Arlington Boulevard, Elm Street, portions of Hooker Road and several other major road segments.
- b. West 5<sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape (\$1,950,000.00) – Funds would continue streetscape improvements for several blocks from Cadillac Street to Tyson Street.
- c. 10<sup>th</sup> Street Connector Enhancements (\$1,750,000.00) – The funds would cover the costs associated with improvements that are above NCDOT’s standards which will allow for extended and larger sidewalks, street lighting, trees and other items which will improve pedestrian safety and encourage walking as a viable means of transportation.
- d. Sidewalks (\$1,400,000.00) – This project would build 9 miles of sidewalks at City Council prioritized locations to improve pedestrian safety and encourage walking as a viable means of transportation.
- e. East Side Greenway (\$750,000.00) – Funds for this extension would pay to plan the project to connect the eastern side of Greenville to the Greenway system.

Mr. Cowin also stated funding for the projects would not be borrowed in advance of the project but at the time the project is to begin. The City has a timeframe of up to seven years to request funding for the various amounts and would have up to 20 years to repay the bond.

Dr. Kane asked about current funding for improvements to streets within the City. Mr. Cowin stated Powell Bill funds are available; however, there is a shortfall of this funding for the improvements that are needed throughout the City.

Dr. Kimmel questioned what purpose EAC had in receiving the bond information. Mr. Cowin stated the information was being distributed to the boards and commissions of the City to better inform all constituents of their options in voting for the bond.

### **C. 2016-2017 EAC Grant Discussion**

Mrs. Kirby directed attention to the Fact Sheet and Call for Proposal attached in the agenda package. These items would be redeveloped to coincide with the upcoming grant cycle based on the decision of EAC to proceed in the upcoming year. Mrs. Kirby presented an updated timeline for the upcoming grant cycle. Dr. Kimmel and Dr. Kane stated they felt the timeline would work within the scope of the projected grant.

Mrs. Kirby also requested the members determine a target audience for the upcoming grant cycle. Dr. Larkin asked if youth groups have been a worthwhile source for consideration in past grant cycles. Mrs. Kirby stated the grant has fluctuated in the level of participation from year to year. However, the projects that have been awarded have been outstanding and the results of the projects have impacted a multitude of youth.

Dr. Kimmel asked if members would like to consider broadening the pool of applicants to further include the possibility of community organizations or other groups to increase environmental awareness. Dr. Larkin stated broadening the possible applicants would have a more extensive environmental impact within the City. Dr. Larkin also stated targeting youth would provide a more long term education impact. Therefore, Dr. Larkin stated he felt either would be a viable option.

Dr. Kimmel suggested the possibility of alternating the target audience each year. Dr. Kimmel stated he felt the target audience should remain as youth organizations this year and have City staff further investigate target audiences for future grant cycles as well as adopting language to incorporate partnerships with private sponsors.

Mrs. Kirby will update the current Call for Proposal to include the timeline information and information on requests for partnerships with private sponsors.

## **8. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Plastic Resolution Discussion**

Dr. Ames directed attention to the draft resolution in the agenda package. Dr. Ames commended Dr. Kane for her suggestions and requested members to comment on the resolution as presented and make any additional recommendations. After review, Dr. Larkin made a motion to approve the resolution as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ames. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Kimmel stated further action should include support from other environmental boards or commissions and presentation of recommendation to City Council. Mrs. Kirby suggested support from the Community Appearance Commission and Keep Greenville Beautiful. Dr. Ames volunteered to attend the Community Appearance Commission and asked if a volunteer would be available for the Keep Greenville Beautiful meeting. Dr. Kane volunteered to attend that meeting.

### **B. Earth Day & State of the Environment Subcommittee Formation Discussion**

Dr. Kimmel gave a brief history of the Earth Day events being held at River Park North in April 2016 and asked for subcommittee volunteers to determine if EAC should participate in the events and if so to develop a plan of action. Mr. Weaver volunteered to chair the subcommittee and Dr. Larkin and Dr. Kimmel will serve on the subcommittee as well. Mr. Weaver will contact LAST and report back to EAC on the determination of the subcommittee's recommendation.

## **9. OTHER– FYI**

### **A. Recycling Report**

### **B. 2015-2016 EAC Grant – LAST Final Report**

## **10. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS**

The following items are proposed for the November 5, 2015 meeting:

### **A. 2016 Goals & Objectives**

### **B. Watershed Master Plan Update**

### **C. 2016-2017 Grant Advertising – Call for Proposal**

### **D. Earth Day Subcommittee Update**

- 11. Adjournment** –There being no further business to discuss, Dr. Kane made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Larkin and passed unanimously.