

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

November 5, 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, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. The following attended the meeting:

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

David Ames
Ernest Larkin
Jon Weaver

David Kimmel
Durk Tyson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Council Member Marion Blackburn
Tom Murray, WK Dickson
Brad Breslow, WK Dickson
Eban Bean, ECU
Mike O'Driscoll, ECU
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 OCTOBER 1, 2015 MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Larkin to approve the October 1, 2015 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ames and passed unanimously.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dr. Kimmel welcomed Mr. Durk Tyson to the Commission.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Watershed Master Plan Update

Mrs. Kirby introduced the consultants for the Watershed Master Plan and directed attention to the PowerPoint presentation. A copy of that presentation will be available with the November 5, 2015 meeting minutes.

Mr. Murray detailed the goals of the Watershed Master Plan and stated the plan focused on Swift Creek and Greens Mill Run watersheds. Mr. Murray gave further information on the benthic results in the watersheds and stated both are considered impaired at this time. The next steps are to meet with North Carolina's Division of Water Resources and determine if portions of the impaired streams could be delisted or moved to Category 4b based on monitoring results.

Dr. Larkin asked if the two streams presented were the only two impaired within the City. Mr.

Murray replied these were the only two designated by the State. Dr. Larkin also asked if there were any future plans to monitor other streams within the City. Mr. Murray stated that was not in their scope. Dr. O'Driscoll commented ECU has some baseline water monitoring results on other streams and could provide those results as requested by EAC.

Dr. Larkin asked if there was a plan to monitor the retrofits as they are implemented. Mrs. Kirby replied that a plan has not been established to monitor every retrofit at this time; however, the City would partner with ECU on obtaining grants to fund long term monitoring. Dr. Kimmel asked about the consequences of not being able to delist the streams. Mr. Murray stated the goals would be to move the streams that couldn't be delisted to Category 4b. The City could then develop a management plan that would give the City more flexibility than if a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was issued.

Council Member Blackburn asked if there was a comparison between the City's watersheds and other cities in the State. Mr. Murray replied the impairments are identified by monitoring and the City of Greenville has been proactive in this area compared to other cities. Mr. Murray also stated cities with higher urbanization are affected more.

Council Member Blackburn also asked about how pending legislation would affect the level of water quality for waters that may be impaired. Mr. Murray stated the legislation has not been approved; however, the degradation of water quality would increase with fewer restrictions.

B. Goals & Objectives Discussion

Dr. Kimmel gave a brief history of the strategic plan and the list of goals and objectives established in 2015. Dr. Kimmel asked members to review the goals and determine if current goals and objectives should remain in place or modified. Dr. Larkin asked about the mission statement as identified on the agenda page and how the mission evolved. Mrs. Kirby stated the mission statement was created by City Council. It was also noted there was a misprint in the purpose statement on the agenda and this will be corrected.

Dr. Kimmel stated he felt some of the goals are currently being met such as engagement of citizens and opportunities to promote environmental education with the upcoming Earth Day event; and conserving and protecting water resources with the Watershed Master Plan. Dr. Kimmel also stated he would like to reestablish board and commission liaisons. This discussion will be added to the December 3, 2015 meeting agenda.

Dr. Ames asked if the Cool Cities initiative could be revisited and potentially added as a goal to determine if the initiative has had an impact on the City and what further steps could be taken to ensure future endeavors are identified as well. Dr. Larkin asked if air quality should be added to the goals. Mr. Weaver stated he would like to see renewable energy integrated into the goals as well. Dr. Kimmel will begin working to include an updated list of goals with the suggestions identified and forward these to members for further discussion at the December 3, 2015 meeting.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2016-2017 EAC Grant Call for Proposal

Mrs. Kirby stated she has incorporated the changes as identified at the October 1, 2015 meeting into the 2016-2017 EAC Grant Call for Proposal. Upon approval of the changes to the Call for Proposal, Mrs. Kirby will forward the information to the City's Public Information Office for updates to the Grant Fact Sheet. A motion was made by Dr. Ames to approve the revised 2016-2017 EAC Grant Call for Proposal and seconded by Dr. Larkin. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Plastic Resolution – Update from Board & Commission Meetings

Dr. Ames reported that Dr. Kane had attended the Keep Greenville Beautiful Board meeting and stated the members were very receptive to the resolution. The members identified areas they felt needed to be addressed and expressed support of the resolution. The members also stated it may be beneficial to bring the resolution to other civic groups and organizations for consideration and support.

Dr. Ames also reported that he had attended the Community Appearance Commission. A quorum was not present; however, Dr. Ames spoke with the members in attendance and received input from those members regarding the resolution. It was suggested to remove the limitation of single-use plastic bags and further develop the intervention efforts as indicated by the resolution.

Dr. Ames stated he felt the next steps should be to include other Commissions and Boards input as well as those from other civic groups and organizations. Dr. Larkin added he felt the resolution would be better received if it is more specific with well-defined alternatives and proposals for potential solutions. Dr. Kimmel suggested updating the resolution with input from the other groups as well as input from new EAC members. Dr. Ames requested this item be added to the December 3, 2015 agenda to allow time for the incorporated changes and any further input from other members.

C. Earth Day Subcommittee Update

Mr. Weaver has met with Dan Sokolovic and stated the crucial need is funding. Dr. Kimmel stated EAC had no budget but would offer support in providing any needs that could be handled by the Commission. Mr. Weaver will set up a meeting with the subcommittee members to determine a plan of action.

9. OTHER– FYI

A. Recycling Report

10. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

The following items are proposed for the December 3, 2015 meeting:

- A. 2016 Goals & Objectives – Finalize**
- B. Council Presentation - Brainstorm**
- C. Boards & Commissions Update Assignments**
- D. Plastic Resolution**
- E. Recycling Report**

- 11. Adjournment** –There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Tyson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ames and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.