

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

March 3, 2016

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. Mr. Durk Tyson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. The following attended the meeting:

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

David Ames
Ann Maxwell
Jon Weaver

Emilie Kane
Durk Tyson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Lynn Raynor, 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 FEBRUARY 4, 2016 MINUTES

Dr. Kane asked that it be noted in the February 4, 2016 minutes in New Business Item C that Mrs. Maxell had presented the EAC with a Letter of Support for the Plastics Resolution from the Neighborhood Advisory Board. Dr. Kane also requested the Chairperson in Call to Order be corrected to reflect Mr. Durk Tyson. A motion was made by Dr. Ames to approve the February 4, 2016 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kane and passed unanimously.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Greenways Update

Mr. Raynor was present to give an update on the greenway projects within the City. Mr. Raynor reported the Green Mill Run Greenway Phase 2 from Charles to ECU property/Stratford Neighborhood with outlets at Evans Street and Arlington Boulevard has been under construction for approximately 8 months. The project is behind in construction due to rain delays; however it is currently 70% complete and is anticipated to be complete by July 2016. Mr. Tyson questioned the connectivity of the greenway with the completion of this section. Mr. Raynor stated it would tie the current greenway connecting Green Springs Park to Evans Street Park as well as connecting to the South Tar River Greenway along the South Tar River to Town Commons.

Mr. Raynor also updated the EAC on the South Tar River Greenway Phase 3 project. Mr. Raynor stated the project was originally scoped from Pitt Street to Moye Boulevard. Due to budget constraints related to subsurface soil conditions, wetland areas, and construction under the CSX bridge, the project scope was reduced to begin at Pitt Street and Town Commons and continue to the east side of Memorial Drive ending at Nash Street. The easement acquisition is complete and

the 90% construction plan comments have been provided to the consultant. The 100% plans are anticipated with construction authorization from North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to be complete within the next two months.

Mrs. Maxwell asked if Vidant had been approached to partner with the City to extend the greenway to the hospital. Mr. Raynor responded that he is not aware of any contact between the City and Vidant to partner together at this time. Mr. Raynor did state the section from Memorial Drive to Moye Boulevard has been submitted to North Carolina Department of Transportation as a part of the Transportation Improvement Plan for funding. The final decision on funding will be determined at the end of the year.

Dr. Kane asked how much difference there was in the original scope of the project versus the amended scope. Mr. Raynor commented the amended scope was about half of the original scope. Dr. Kane also commented on the appearance of the bridge at Canterbury Road in Stratford and stated it was beautiful.

B. Greenville Utilities Commission Update

Mr. Tyson gave a PowerPoint presentation on the energy conservation efforts by Greenville Utilities for environmental stewardship. The presentation will be available with the March 3, 2016 meeting minutes.

The presentation detailed:

1. Energy Service services such as free onsite evaluations, and energy surveys;
2. Water Resources energy efficiency initiatives, and solar powered mixer;
3. Wastewater Treatment Plant's programs to protect natural resources by using ultra violet disinfection; the dewatering facility; and pump station projects;
4. Electric Department spotlighting solar power sites within Greenville;
5. Gas Department's Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Facility as well as Greenville Utilities alternative fuel vehicles.

C. Planning & Zoning Commission

Mr. Weaver is continuing to work on the update.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2016-2017 EAC Grant Updates

Mr. Tyson informed members that Staff has mailed information to the youth organizations identified and asked that members make contact with these groups to promote the grant. Mrs. Maxwell stated she has been in contact with South Central High School as well as Wahl-Coates Elementary School and distributed the grant forms.

Dr. Kane also stated she had been in contact with Sound Rivers and they may have interest in the grant. Dr. Kane asked if anyone had contact information for Girl Scouts troops. Mrs. Kirby stated the regional chapter is the North Carolina Coastal Pines and staff would forward the information to this group.

Mrs. Maxwell noted that the Correctional Enterprise would allow State employees to purchase rain barrels and stated this could be a potential project idea for organizations that may apply for the grant.

B. Earth Week Subcommittee Update

Mr. Weaver reported the Sierra Club and the EAC would be co-hosting a forum on greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 during the Earth Week events at River Park North. Dr. Ames and Mr. Weaver are working with City staff to solidify details such as presenters, and logistics and will provide a follow-up to the EAC with final plans. Mrs. Kirby asked Mr. Tyson if he could identify a contact with Greenville Utilities that could highlight their efforts to become more energy efficient.

C. Plastics Resolution Presentation Updates

Dr. Ames noted the change in the title of the resolution to reflect “grocery/shopping” bag designations. Dr. Kane stated she attended the Keep Greenville Beautiful meeting and received a unanimous vote for a Letter of Support for the EAC’s resolution.

Mr. Tyson stated that he had been interviewed by the local media regarding the plastic resolution and stated the EAC had adopted the resolution and the resolution will be forwarded to City Council for consideration through Notes to Council. It will be at the discretion of City Council to place on a future agenda. Mr. Tyson reiterated the options for consideration in the resolution. Tyson asked for a motion by EAC members to forward the current resolution to City Council. A motion was made by Mrs. Maxwell to forward the resolution to City Council in Notes to Council for their consideration. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kane and approved unanimously.

9. OTHER– FYI

- A. Keep Greenville Beautiful Update**
- B. Recycling Report**

10. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

The following items are proposed for the April 7, 2016 meeting:

- A. 2016-2017 EAC Grant – Review & discuss applications**
- B. Earth Week Subcommittee Update**
- C. Watershed Master Plan – Final Report**
- D. Greenville Bike & Pedestrian Commission Update**
- E. Quarterly UST Report**

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