

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

April 7, 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:

Emilie Kane
Durk Tyson

Ann Maxwell
Jon Weaver

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Chad Carwein, ECU

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MARCH 3, 2016 MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Kane to approve the March 3, 2016 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weaver and passed unanimously.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Maxwell announced that the Tar River University Neighborhood Association (TRUNA) voted unanimously to endorse the EAC's plastic resolution. Staff has received the letter and will attach the letter of support to the resolution for future reference.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Chad Carwein, ECU Sustainability Manager, introduced himself to the Commission. Mr. Carwein stated he began his position with ECU on March 14, 2016 and would like to offer his services to become a liaison between ECU and the City. Ms. Maxwell asked Mr. Carwein to detail his duties with ECU. Mr. Carwein stated his position worked to promote environmental stewardship of the students, faculty, staff, and the community. Mr. Tyson asked if Mr. Carwein would be willing to give an update on his activities in the upcoming months or consider filling out a talent bank form and serving on EAC. Staff will contact Mr. Carwein to provide more information.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Watershed Master Plan Update

Ms. Kirby stated there are six master plans that are being addressed. Draft plans have been received for five of those plans and City staff has been working with consultants to finalize these reports. The outstanding plan is for Greens Mill Run.

Once final reports have been received in June 2016, Staff estimates a prioritization of all projects by mid-July 2016. There will be three categories for priorities which are 1) flood control projects; 2) water quality projects; 3) stream bank stabilization projects. These plans are anticipated to be presented to City Council in August 2016.

Dr. Kane asked the names of the plans being reviewed. Ms. Kirby stated they are:

1) Greens Mill Run; 2) Fork Swamp; 3) Swift Creek; 4) Harris Mill/Schoolhouse Branch; 5) Johnsons Mill/Parkers Creek; 6) Hardee Creek.

Ms. Maxwell stated a concern she has is the correlation between zoning and the building and looking at basins and their operations. Ms. Kirby stated one of the goals of these plans is to help the community become more conscientious of the impacts on watersheds and make recommendations for growth. They provide a holistic approach to stormwater management.

Mr. Kirby added an additional concern for the Greens Mill Run and Swift Creek watersheds. They are currently identified on the State's 303D impairment list. The final report for these watersheds will offer some options for taking a proactive approach to managing the impairment.

B. Greenville Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission Update

Dr. Kane reported the March 2016 meeting concentrated on the hazardous conditions, safety and connectivity of bikeways and walkways in the City. Dr. Kane also stated the City Traffic Engineer gave an update on the studies that were being conducted for traffic counts and pedestrian crossings signals. Dr. Kane also reported the commission developed a resolution to address safe bike and pedestrian practices.

C. Planning & Zoning Commission

Mr. Weaver is continuing to work on the update.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2016-2017 EAC Grant Updates

Ms. Kirby reported no grant applications were received. Therefore, Ms. Kirby suggested the Love A Sea Turtle (L.A.S.T.) grant be recognized at the June ceremony and conduct a Greenhouse Gas Emission Forum could be held the same evening. Mr. Tyson added the L.A.S.T. 5k run will be held on April 9, 2016 at River Park North.

Dr. Kane expressed her concern in the lack of applications and asked if the monies could be used for other purposes. Ms. Kirby stated the money had to be used for stormwater education and will be used for on-going education programs.

B. Earth Week Subcommittee Update

Mr. Weaver reported the subcommittee has decided to postpone the forum previously discussed for April 19, 2016. The goal is to have the June meeting of the EAC designated for the symposium as well as the award ceremony.

9. OTHER- FYI

A. Quarterly UST Report

B. Recycling Report

10. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

The following items are proposed for the May 5, 2016 meeting:

A. FROGGS Update

B. Earth Week Subcommittee Update

C. Public Transportation & Parking Commission Update (A. Maxwell)

D. Community Appearance Commission Update (D. Ames)

11. Adjournment –There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Maxwell made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weaver and passed unanimously.