

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

January 7, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Members of the Environmental Advisory Commission met on the above date at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Diego LLerena, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. The following attended the meeting:

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Diego LLerena
Ann Maxwell
Robert Shaw
David Ames

OTHERS PRESENT:

Daryl Norris, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Chad Carwein, East Carolina University
John Demary, Pitt County
John Coward, ECVC

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Ms. Maxwell to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Shaw and passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 5, 2020 MINUTES

Dr. Ames made a request to change old business to reflect the students are from Duke University rather than East Carolina University. Ms. Maxwell made a request to change the verbiage under the recycling section to reflect calling Mr. Demary as well as Mr. Coward. Ms. Maxwell made a motion to approve the agenda with the requested changes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ames and passed unanimously.

5. ANNOUCEMENTS

None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

7. COMMISSION REPORTS

A. ECU Sustainability Report

Mr. Carwein stated ECU is still in the process of applying for electric car charging stations for the Health Science Campus. He also stated he has a student intern within the Geography program that will be helping with bee keeping and expandi the tree inventory. ECU will be renewing the Bee Campus USA program. There will be a virtual lecture by Robert Bilott on February 4th. Mr. Carwein finalized and posted the monthly garden and orchid work days as well as the Town Creek Culvert cleanup.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. EAC Sustainability Subcommittee Update

Dr. Ames stated a meeting is scheduled with Ms. Wall to discuss the issues of sustainability and discussing the Duke Graduate Student volunteer program.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recycling

Ms. Maxwell introduced Mr. Demary and Mr. Coward to speak about Recycling. Mr. Demary spoke about fee increases and glass removal. Mr. Demary stated glass was removed because it was breaking within the trucks and contaminating the other recyclable goods. The County has applied for a grant with the Glass Foundation and is waiting to hear back on how much funding the County will receive. The grant will fund containers being placed within the county for citizens to drop off glass for recycling. Mr. Coward spoke about ECVC's involvement with glass recycling. He spoke about how rejection rates were increasing due to glass contaminating other recyclable goods. Ultimately, preventing recyclable goods from being processed. Dr. Ames asked Mr. Coward to explain what plastics are currently being accepted. Mr. Coward explained they are currently accepting milk jugs, water jugs, drink jugs, detergent bottles, Gatorade bottles, soda bottles. Plastics they are not taking are plastic bags, grocery store bags, styrofoam and plastic food containers. Dr. Shaw asked about metal containers and Mr. Demary advised as long as the containers have been cleaned out they are able to accept the pile. Mr. Carwein stated he feels the communication efforts should be more consistent across the City of Greenville, Pitt County and ECVC departments. Ms. Debs informed the committee about the Facebook group, Dissident Glass Recyclers of Pitt County.

10. OTHER– FYI

Mr. LLerena asked if New Year elections were being held. Ms. Braddy asked for a motion to add elections to the agenda for discussion. Dr. Shaw made a motion to amend the agenda to include election. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ames. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. LLerena stated after April he will no longer be able to service on the committee.

11. ELECTIONS

Mr. LLerena asked for nominations for Chair. Dr. Shaw nominated Ms. Maxwell. Ms. Maxwell declined the nominations and nominated Dr. Shaw. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ames. The motion was passed unanimously.

As acting Chair, Dr. Shaw asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Ms. Maxwell nominated Dr. Ames to which he declined. Dr. Shaw nominated Ms. Maxwell and Mr. LLerena seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

12. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

No changes.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Maxwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. LLerena and unanimously approved. Dr. Shaw closed out the meeting.