

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**October 6, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Members of the Environmental Advisory Commission met on the above date at 5:30 p.m. in the Public Works Department conference room, Dr. Shaw, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. The following attended the meeting:

**1. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS:**

Robert Shaw  
Ann Maxwell  
Yoshi Newman  
Jeff McKinnon  
Joshua Gardner

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Daryl Norris, City of Greenville  
Wanda Martin, City of Greenville  
Marion Blackburn, City Council Liaison

**GUEST:**

None

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dr. McKinnon added to the Agenda:

Resolution for GUC Board as "E"

N.C. Bike Summit as "F"

Facebook Page as "G"

Ms. Blackburn added:

Social Distancing – Solo Cups as "H"

Ms. Newman noted a change in spelling of Mr. Gardner's last name under Commission Members. (Gardner instead of Gardener)

A motion was made by Mr. Gardner to approve the agenda with these amendments. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maxwell and passed unanimously.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF September 1, 2022 MINUTES**

Mr. Gardner noted a change in spelling of his last name under item #3. (Gardner instead of Gardener)

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon to approve the September 1, 2022 minutes with these amendments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner and passed unanimously.

#### **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Norris announced that the City of Greenville Engineering Department submitted a grant to NCDEQ. For a portion of their ARPA funds that are decanted to storm water projects. The grant application is for a Corey Road Regional detention pond and stream restoration. It is about an eight million dollar project. And we are hoping for seven and a half million dollars' worth of funding from the state through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Mr. Norris also mention submitting two letters of interest to be able to apply to the FEMA Brick program. That is building resilient infrastructure in communities program. The two letters of interest are for the Corey Road project and other one off East Firetower Road for culvert improvements and flood plain benching. Both are about 9 to 9.9 million dollar projects. Hopefully we will be awarded by June or July in 2023.

Mr. Norris also announced there is potential funding for reducing carbon foot print funneling to and through the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mr. Norris stated that he has talked with our Transportation Planner for the MPO (Eliud De Jesus) and is hoping to have him come speak to the EAC meeting sometime in the near future to talk more about it. Eliud De Jesus was very interested in the greenhouse gas study and there might be funding available to continuing that study for the larger area instead of just municipal operations.

Ms. Maxwell announced she spoke Monday night at the County Commissioners meeting asking the county to put in some environmental guard rails to protect the health of the citizens.

Ms. Maxwell also mentioned receiving a letter from Mrs. Lisa Tyson, (North of the River Group) thanking Ms. Maxwell for speaking and the support of the EAC.

Ms. Blackburn thanked everybody who came out to speak, during the council meeting regarding the ENC Alliance contract.

#### **6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None

#### **7. OLD BUSINESS**

**A.** Dr. Shaw spoke on the Sustainability Proposal. Dr. Shaw asked Mrs. Blackburn when is the best time to present this final document to city council. It was decided that each EAC member would speak to a council member

Mrs. Blackburn suggested speak with the mayor and have a tight presentation when you talk to members of council individually. (Have numbers, information, examples from other cities, why

it is good for Greenville). Then in the EAC annual January presentation mention it and maybe come to the council's workshop (January 26<sup>th</sup>).

**B.** Dr. Shaw announced that the GHG Inventory Publicity was sent to the Public Information Office. Mr. Norris stated that it was published on the city's home page under city news and a link to the plan and sent to the media.

**C.** Dr. Shaw spoke on highlights from the New Horizons Plan, with action 6.02-Develop a green energy plan that moves Greenville towards more renewable energy and set goals for fossil fuel reduction, carbon admissions reduction. Ms. Maxwell suggested to Mr. Shaw to add that to his comments for a sustainably officer. The committee discussed how to garner support and public outcry for accomplishing goals of the New Horizons plan. Dr. Shaw suggested quoting a couple of paragraphs (pertinent to what we want) from The New Horizon Plan when speaking individually with a council member. Ms. Maxwell asked what everyone wants to achieve as a goal from the plan:

Ms. Maxwell- Tree ordinance

Dr. Shaw- Green Energy Plan

Dr. McKinnon- Bicycle Districting

Ms. Newman- Parks and Green Space.

**D.** Ms. Maxwell and Dr. Shaw spoke at the Council meeting concerning the ENC Alliance. Ms. Maxwell stated that we as a commission never made an official statement. Mrs. Maxwell spoke of one of the concerns she has with ENC Alliance recruiting and lack of environmental review. That we would like for the city council to encourage the ENC Alliance to recruit business that are in environmentally healthy.

Dr. Shaw stated he has a resolution drawn up that stated:

“The Environmental Advisory Commission of the City of Greenville adopt this resolution, and recommend to City Council that the Greenville City Council and the Eastern North Carolina Alliance consider environmental issues including air and water quality and carbon emissions when recruiting new businesses locating in Greenville.”

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maxwell and passed unanimously.

**E.** Dr. McKinnon spoke about the process to speak before the GUC board and put a request to address them on these issues. GUC will review and decide whether to invite EAC representatives to come speak. Dr. McKinnon listed the things that he thinks should discuss with them:

- GUC representation on natural Gas on their website. And their efforts to sell natural gas. And natural gas fixtures to the population.
- Their police regarding residential sold.
- Their billing encourages consumption of energy and fossil fuels.

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon that the commission send a delegation to address these three issues with the GUC. The motion was seconded by Dr. Shaw and passed unanimously.

**F.** Dr. McKinnon read a proposed resolution on the N.C. Bike Summit for approval and to be sent to city council.

“That the Environmental Advisory Commission of the City of Greenville adopt this resolution, that the EAC recognizes and thanks the organizers of the upcoming 2022 BikeWalk Transportation Summit taking place in Greenville Oct. 27-29, and encourages participation in the summit.”

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon that the commission adopt and send this resolution to city council on the 2022 BikeWalk Transportation Summit. The motion was seconded by Ms. Maxwell and passed unanimously.

**G.** Dr. McKinnon spoke on frustrations with the delay of publishing the quarterly Facebook posts from the commission. The members talked about the reach of the City Facebook page and the possibility of creating a web page for the EAC. Mr. Norris stated that would will need to be done by the Public Information office.

**H.** Ms. Maxwell spoke about the options for recyclable cups for the downtown social district. Ms. Blackburn stated the compromise recommendation was we get plant based instead of disposable plastics. Dr. Shaw asked “If we could require the Bars to use this? Ms. Blackburn’s response was we sure could. Ms. Blackburn stated the thinking is you just throw them in with the trash. They will go to the land field but they will decompose. Dr. Shaw asked if the EAC communicate to council that the plant based cups be required. The group decided to research it more and contact Mr. Carwein about the research he has done on the topic.

**I.** Ms. Maxwell mentioned the county is addressing the issue of using Glyphosate (Roundup). And Dr. Rachel Roper (with the school of medicine) is willing to come talk to us about the harm and all the bad thing about Glyphosate. The city is continuing to use it to spray our greenways near the water and etc. Ms. Maxwell feels like we need to make a statement about that. Ms. Maxwell stated its getting in all our food and you don’t even drink a glass of wine from a vineyard in the United States that you’re not drinking Glyphosate. Dr. Shaw stated he had investigated it from a medical stand point and isn’t convinced that it is as harmful as people say. Ms. Newman suggested in the interest of time with the meetings not do a presentation, just have her share some resources with us. That we can read on our own time.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **9. OTHER– FYI**

None.

## **10. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS**

**A.** Stormwater Annual Report

**B.** Review EAC Goals

**C.** Follow up with GUC-McKinnon

**D.** Follow up on individual meetings with council person

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mrs. Newman to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Shaw and passed unanimously.