

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
November 3, 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. APPROVAL OF October 6, 2022 MINUTES A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon to approve the October 6, 2022 minutes with these amendments. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Maxwell and passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Maxwell announced that during this coming Monday County Commissioners agenda (Nov. 7th) they are going to be discussing incentives for businesses through the NC Alliances and through Economic development and there will be a public hearing about incentives for businesses. Mrs. Newman stated she could be there. Dr. Shaw suggested reading the resolution that the EAC forwarded.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Dr. McKinnon announced that the EAC has been invited to the GUC board meeting. (Wed. Nov. 17th @ noon) Dr. McKinnon and Dr. Shaw will be attending and explain the three concerns that we discussed before. Dr. Shaw will talk about solar panels. Dr. McKinnon will

talk about prices structure issues and natural gas. Dr. Shaw stated in the initial letter sent to Mr. Darden, which they would like to discuss:

- Fee schedules for electricity and natural gas.
- Commutation of the pros and cons of electricity and natural gas to customers and the public.
- Pricing policies regarding residential solar.

B. Dr. Shaw spoke on the individual meetings with council members. To get them thinking about hiring a Sustainability Manager when they discuss the budget next year.

Dr. Shaw's discussed his meeting with his councilman. His councilman seemed very interested into the whole issue of Sustainability. He wanted to know the accomplishments of ECU's Sustainability Programs and the methods that were used to save energy and save money. Dr. Shaw also gave his councilman an executive summary of the Duke's Greenhouse Gas Admissions Inventory. After the councilman read the summary he wanted the full report. His councilman wants to meet back with Dr. Shaw in a few weeks after he reads everything.

Dr. Shaw also spoke with Mayor Connelly and discussed the problems with the GUC not making solar residential power very financially attractive to people. Mayor Connelly seemed very interested in that and commented that when Dr. Shaw meets with GUC that Dr. Shaw could say "you met with the Mayor and he doesn't like the fact that we don't have much residential solar in Greenville". Mayor Connelly wants to know how is a sustainability manager going to save the city money and what the training is with a sustainability manger. Dr. Shaw mentioned that he had talked with the Asheboro's sustainability manger in terms in what they do. Mayor Connelly wanted to know more about what other cities do and not reinventing the wheel.

Mrs. Newman stated she had a real positive meeting with her councilman. Mrs. Newman said the councilman suggested it would be a lot more effective if everyone would come together as a coalition and present proposals to the city about a sustainability manager. In a way in which the city could understand and except. If there are these different groups who have that interest those groups should come together and come up with the unified strategy statement and should be tied to some economic advantage to the city.

Mrs. Maxwell stated that the councilman that she and Dr. McKinnon spoke with seemed very appreciative that they were talking to him ahead of the January meeting. Mrs. Maxwell said she brought up a fact about the recent WorldCat issue and how a sustainability manager could help.

Mr. Gardner stated he had emailed a councilman and is waiting to meet with them.

Mrs. Maxwell stated she was to meet with another councilman the next day.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mr. Norris stated he had previously emailed everyone a copy of the Annual Stormwater Report. This report is sent to the NC Department of Environmental Quality every year showing how we are complying with the Tar-Pamlico rules. With the new rules recently adopted Greenville is also named in the Neuse Nutrient Program as well. The future reports will be for

both the Tar-Pamlico and Neuse programs. This also serves as our annual report for federal MPDES municipal separate storm sewer permit. It shows how the city is complying with those rules and regulations and what we are doing for water quality concerns and managing storm water system. Mr. Norris then gave a presentation of the stormwater report highlighting the stream enhancement program and ongoing capital projects from the Watershed Master Plans.

He also detailed the specific components of the stormwater program including, illicit detection and elimination, public education and outreach, public involvement, new development review and approval, and good housekeeping/pollution prevention.

B. Dr. Shaw reviewed the EAC annual goals for 2022 and suggested to keep the same goals for 2023. Dr. Shaw mentioned that in the December EAC meeting that these goals need to be finalized. And then asked if there were any other goals to add to 2023.

Mrs. Maxwell suggested a tree ordinance. Mrs. Blackburn suggested a Tree Working Group. Dr. McKinnon suggested review Greenville policies and regulations regarding trees and vegetation and consider possible outlets. Dr. Shaw suggested the goal would be to establish a tree working group under the EAC for protection of trees.

Mr. Norris suggested the wording be: “To establish and support a tree protection working group to enhance, preserve, and restore tree canopy in the City of Greenville.”

Dr. Shaw added that to the already goals of 2022. (That would be Goal #6)

C. Mrs. Maxwell mentioned the 2023 Earth Day event on is on April 22, 2022. Mrs. Maxwell asked about EAC and City support and participation

Mr. Norris replied by saying normally an activity being held at town commons like this, the city of Greenville would mostly likely be a sponsor of that activity. (Tables, Chairs, Traffic control, Security, Sanitation pickup, etc.) That will at least require City Manager approval and possibly the City Council to approve of that sponsorship.

A motion was made by Mr. Gardner to partner with the Sierra Club to help plan the Earth Day Event. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Maxwell and passed unanimously.

8. OTHER– FYI

None.

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

A. Finalize EAC goals

B. Annual Presentation to Council

C. Feedback on GUC Board presentation

10. ADJOURNMENT

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