

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
February 2, 2023

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. McKinnon, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. The following attended the meeting:

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Jeff McKinnon
Ann Maxwell
Thomas Trevathan
Joshua Gardner
Robert Shaw

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

GUEST:

Delbert Bryant, City of Greenville
Chad Carwein, ECU
Jeff Monico, Sierra Club

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 5, 2023 MINUTES

Mrs. Maxwell mentioned an error. (“Asheboro” needs to be “Asheville”)

A motion was made by Thomas Trevathan to approve the January 5, 2023 minutes with these amendments. The motion was seconded by Ann Maxwell and passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. McKinnon mentioned that his next social media post will be in the spring. The spring post will be on the top five things we can do to help the environment for Earth Day.

A motion was made by Ann Maxwell to move the Review of Tree Protection Policies to the March 2, 2023 meeting with these amendments. The motion was seconded by Thomas Trevathan and passed unanimously. Mrs. Maxwell asked who has a copy of the current Tree Ordinances and polices we use in Greenville. Mr. Norris replied all the ordinances are on the website but polices are not always posted up there.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Dr. Shaw gave a final rehearsal presentation of the Annual Presentation to Council that will be presented to the council on February 6, 2023.

B. Dr. Shaw stated that he had not had any other meetings with any city Staff regarding Sustainability Officer. Dr. Shaw did mention that he had spoken to a former council member and asked that person if they would speak in favor of the Sustainability Office. That person stated they would be out of town during the council meeting but they would contact some of the present council members in regarding the Sustainability officer. Dr. Shaw also spoke with a pediatrician that will be speaking during the public comment period at the next council meeting, regarding in favor for the Sustainability Officer. Dr. Shaw also mention that members of the Sierra Club will also speak during the public comment period at the next council meeting, regarding in favor for the Sustainability Officer.

C. Dr. McKinnon gave an updated report on the GUC board meeting.

Dr. McKinnon and Dr. Shaw attended a GUC board meeting where they discussed:

- Policies regarding charges for becoming Solar.
- Natural Gas.

Dr. McKinnon suggested that one of the EAC members start attending the GUC board meeting, and report back to the EAC. (The GUC board meetings are public meetings, but no public comment period during these meetings.)

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon for one member from the EAC to attend future GUC Board meeting and to make “The GUC Report” a recurring agenda item. The motion was seconded by Thomas Trevathan and passed unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Blackburn suggested to the EAC to brainstorm on “How can Greenville’s Recycling improve or modify what’s going on now and what can we do to restore more of a robust recycling in Greenville?” Mrs. Maxwell spoke on how she was on the first board that helped Greenville get started with Recycling and how things worked until it didn’t work anymore. Mrs. Maxwell also mention about Greenville’s Uptown is sending their glass, plastic and other stuff to the Bertie County land field at their expense.

Mr. Mulligan mention that the Greenville’s Uptown does have cardboard dumpsters and the recycling materials goes to ECVC but it is mostly cardboard. Glass is still recycled just not in City of Greenville’s containers. There are 14 convenience sites throughout the county and six are within the city’s limits. The county then brings the recyclables to Wilson. Mr. Mulligan mentioned this past October/November ECVC replaced a cylinder piston and ECVC has not been working effectively since. (At 40% capacity) They sent the part out to be replaced, but their machine is old so, it is taking a while to get it replaced. Due to this ECVC is behind.

Mr. Mulligan did mentioned that the City of Greenville has looked into if ECVC where to stop operating and if they had to take their recycling to Raleigh. If they did this fee would be significantly higher. This would mean the city of Greenville would have to double their people and trucks. Mrs. Maxwell asked is there anything we can do to help with recyclables from getting contaminated. Mr. Mulligan replied that the city of Greenville hasn't gone to the steps of taking the blue containers away yet. Mr. Mulligan also shared a flyer that that Pitt County has put out about Recycling. On it is a list of things to keep out of the recyclables. (Blue Box)

Mrs. Blackburn asked "Should we send this flyer out with the monthly GUC bill, at least once a year?" Mr. Mulligan added that they could email it out individually.

Dr. McKinnon asked in terms of action items for our commission, how can we contribute? One way is to send a message to council. That we think there should be better communication of these policies. In terms of right now or next week what can we do? Mr. Mulligan answered that we are increasing our education. There is never enough education on recycle. There is one hundred counties in the state and as far as recycling goes we are number six right now. We have been number one and number two but right now we are number six.

8. OTHER– FYI

None.

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Review of Tree Protection Policies.
- B. EAC Calendar Planning.
- C. Update on GUC Report
- D. Chad-ECU Report

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Thomas Trevathan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Shaw and passed unanimously.