

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES**

**March 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  
Yoshi Newman  
Ann Maxwell  
Thomas Trevathan  
Joshua Gardner  
Robert Shaw

#### **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 JANUARY 5, 2023 MINUTES**

A motion was made by Thomas Trevathan to approve the January 5, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Robert Shaw and passed unanimously.

### **4. ANNOUCEMENTS**

Mr. Norris mentioned that the City of Greenville had been awarded another grant for the Corey Road Regional Detention Pond project for 5 million dollars. There were 19 projects funded. The City of Greenville was number 9 out of 83 applications in the state.

Dr. McKinnon and Dr. Shaw gave an educational presentation to some pulmonary residents on climate change, health, and diversity.

Ms. Blackburn announced that this commission is still down one member and needs a developer.

Ms. Maxwell announced that April will be her last month on this commission.

### **5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Ms. Maxwell gave an update on the GUC board meeting.

The GUC board approved two more transformers, as backups in case of damage to the main ones.

Another item they talked about, was when a transformer is shot oil comes out of it. So they are also going to build a retaining area around the transformers that would catch the oil in the event that it was shot.

Ms. Maxwell also mentioned that this commission still needs to keep pushing for solar.

Dr. McKinnon mentioned for a follow up, things the EAC can do:

- Ask GUC to fix the wrong and misleading statements about natural gas on their web page.
- Ask GUC to fix the incorrect reporting of their energy sources on their website.
- Follow up with GUC on their solar plans

Dr. McKinnon suggested writing a letter on behalf of the EAC commission to inquire about the status of these three issues.

A motion was made by Ms. Maxwell to approve Dr. McKinnon writing a letter to GUC, asking for a follow up on the three topics mentioned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon to request to visit with the GUC board to address the three topics mentioned on behalf of the EAC commission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Newman and passed unanimously.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Ms. Maxwell mentioned the tree ordinance that the City of Greenville currently was passed in 2007. This ordinance can be found on the City of Greenville web page. In 2013 the EAC commission discussed the tree ordinance and how the commission needed to do something about it.

Ms. Maxwell also mentioned that a student at ECU (Biology department) had done research on tree ordinances all over North Carolina. If this commission could get that student's information, we could look at what has happened across the state and decide what we want to do here and push for that. Then we could go before the council and say this is a tree ordinance that we want for this city.

Ms. Blackburn mentioned that this commission talked about having a tree working group and that the tree working group could focus on this new tree ordinance.

Ms. Blackburn mentioned Ms. Maxwell could be a part of the tree working group.

Mr. Gardner wanted to be the EAC commission representative for the tree working group.

Ms. Maxwell stated on 4-20-2022, the city of Greenville was recognized as Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. In recognition of the city's commitment to effective Urban Forest Management. Greenville achieved this status by meeting the four requirements of forming a tree board or department.

- Creating a tree care ordinance.
- Having an annual community forestry budget.
- An Arbor Day observation and proclamation.

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon to imitate a Tree Working Group with Mr. Garner representing the EAC commission and Ms. Maxwell participating in the group. The motion was seconded by Dr. Shaw and passed unanimously.

Dr. McKinnon asked the Tree Working group to report back to the EAC Commission on April 6, 2023 with plans for additional members to be added and a provisional plan.

B. Ms. Maxwell mentioned Earth Day is coming up on April 22, 2023. Ms. Maxwell suggested that the EAC commission have a table at the Earth Day Event. (To be discussed more in the April meeting)

C. Dr. McKinnon reviewed the six listed items that Dr. Shaw had presented to the city for the EAC yearly calendar planning.

- Working collaboratively with GUC.
- Sustainability Director
- Social Media Communications
- Environmental technology in lighting
- Tree protection polices
- EV Charging

Mr. Norris mentioned that he did add the Stormwater Annual Report to the calendar in November.

Dr. McKinnon suggested Dr. Shaw reach out to Ms. Wall about a follow-up on the Sustainability Manger.

Ms. Maxwell suggested in April to speak on the use of Glyphosate (Round-Up).

Mr. Norris listed the proposed agenda items for the April meeting that had been discussed.

Mr. Norris added the annual PPI-Committee (Program for Public Information) on the calendar for June.

Ms. Blackburn suggested in May to discuss the Budget/Sustainability Coordinator.

Dr. McKinnon stated the next Facebook post for spring will be on Earth Day and possibly adding that post to the newspaper. Dr. McKinnon will get a draft out before the April meeting.

Ms. Blackburn suggested this commission discuss a lighting ordinance.

Dr. McKinnon added EV charging stations to the calendar in May.

### **8. OTHER– FYI**

Ms. Newman discussed flyers about information on recycling that was being disturbed at the Public Safety meeting at ECU. Ms. Newman mentioned that these flyers were printed on non-recyclable paper. Ms. Newman proposed that this commission investigate a standard procedure within the city, that printed documents are on recyclable paper.

Dr. McKinnon suggested adding reviewing city paper use policies and the use of recyclable materials to the calendar in August.

### **9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. ECU Sustainability Update
- B. Tree Working Group Report
- C. Earth Day Booth Discussion
- D. The use of Glyphosate (Round-up)
- E. The GUC Report

### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

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