

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

April 6, 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
Joshua Gardner
Robert Shaw

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville
Wanda Martin, City of Greenville
Marion Blackburn, City Council Liaison

GUEST:

Jeff Monico, Sierra Club
Lisa Tyson, North of the River Group.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2, 2023 MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Shaw to approve the March 2, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Joshua Gardner and passed unanimously.

Ms. Maxwell asked to move the Tree Working Group to the June Agenda.

Ms. Kirby asked to take off the ECU Sustainability, since Mr. Carwein wasn't present.

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

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Blackburn announced that Ms. Maxwell had served on the Environmental Advisory Commission now seven years (November 2015-April 2023). Ms. Blackburn presented Ms. Maxwell with a Letter and a certificate of Recognition from the City of Greenville.

Ms. Maxwell introduced Lisa Tyson from North of the River Group.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Gardner gave an update report on the GUC board meeting. Mr. Gardner mention that GUC spoke on rate increases and there hasn't been an increase in rates since 2015. But there is possibly going to be a rate increase sometime in the next year. And GUC has a team looking into solar.

Dr. McKinnon mention returning to the GUC meeting on April 20th with Dr. Shaw.

Dr. McKinnon read the pre-letter to the GUC board. Dr. McKinnon will mail this letter out several days before the April 20th meeting.

B. Ms. Maxwell discussed an EAC Earth Day Booth.

Ms. Maxwell requested copies of the EAC's bylaws, Talent Bank forms and the current tree ordinance for passing out at the Earth Day event.

Ms. Maxwell stated that the booth would need to be open between 11am-4pm. Dr. McKinnon, Mr. Gardner and Ms. Maxwell will be rotating times at the booth during Earth Day.

C. Dr. Shaw stated that there were some good suggestions made in preparing the draft for The Clean Energy Resolution.

Ms. Newman will be writing a revision of The Clean Energy Resolution, to be sent out before the May meeting.

Ms. Maxwell mentioned the steps that needs to be taken in getting a resolution passed by council.

D. Dr. McKinnon gave an update report on the (draft) Spring Facebook Post on "3 Steps Toward a Greener Greenville".

Dr. McKinnon asked if there is any revisions that needs to be made.

(Some suggestions were: shorter version and some different wordings.)

This post will be posted on Facebook and sent to the Reflector in advance of Earth day.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ann Maxwell discussed Glyphosate and it being harmful.

Ms. Maxwell spoke on speaking with Janice Gallagher (County Manager). Ms. Gallagher provided Ms. Maxwell with information the county used on making their policy statement on Glyphosate.

Ms. Maxwell mentioned that the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) had not banded anything yet.

Ms. Maxwell presented a presentation on Glyphosate. Which included some public information that the county has been doing.

Video and links that were included:

- Pitt Green Pro Tips for Lawn Care Full Video
- Pitt.ces.ncsu.edu
- EnviroScoopes.com

B. Dr. Shaw stated that Ann Wall sent him a letter announcing that Greenville and Pitt County had been selected to receive a Lead for NC Fellow.

Dr. Shaw gave a presentation on the Lead for NC Fellow.
(UNC School of Government Leads Program)

- Lead for NC Fellow is people who have graduated from an undergrad school.
- The goal is to place these people in paid local government fellowships.
- The City of Greenville will start interviewing for a one year intern-fellow in April-May 2023. And the employment will start in Aug. 2023.

8. OTHER– FYI

None.

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

- A.** Budget/Sustainability Coordinator
- B.** EV Charging Station
- C.** GUC Board Report
- D.** Clean Energy Resolution

10. ADJOURNMENT

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