

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
October 5, 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
Thomas Trevathan
Joshua Gardner
Robert Shaw
Karin Zipf
Khristi Dixon

OTHERS PRESENT:

Daryl Norris, City of Greenville
Wanda Martin, City of Greenville

GUEST:

Jeff Monico, Sierra Club
Abby Kimmel, NC Fellow

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Gardner to approve the September 7, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Shaw and passed unanimously.

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon to move the update on the Tree Working Group to the January 4, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trevathan and passed unanimously.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. McKinnon announced Nerd Nite at Tapped, on Friday October 13, 7:45pm. Dr. McKinnon will also be speaking on his book that is coming out "Ancient Lakes".

Ms. Zipf mentioned the Science Festival that will be on October 7th Greenville town commons. Dr. McKinnon stated that he would be attending the event with the ECU Diversity. Mr. Monico stated that the Sierra Club will also be present.

Mr. Norris announced that Ms. Wall will be retiring at the end of November.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Dr. Shaw, Dr. Newman and Mr. Monico attended the last GUC board meeting. Dr. Shaw mention that he invited Kyle Brown (who spoke on community solar projects) to come to the EAC meeting in November. Dr. Shaw mentioned GUC did a poll and 45% of GUC customers said they would pay an extra \$1.00-\$5.00 dollars per month to reduce carbon admissions. During the next eighteen months GUC will be working on details and establishing a community solar project. In which customers can buy 23% of their electrical energy need from this community solar project. Basically each customer would have the electric generation of five solar panels.

Mr. Monico mentioned he will be at the next GUC board meeting speaking on behalf of the Sierra Club.

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon for Dr. McKinnon to speak at the next GUC board meeting. "Pleased to see the solar farm. We think you could still do better on rate structure. Keeping in mind the large sum of expenses on economic development and PR other activities. And we would like to see them stop and remove the ads of natural gas at their website. And stop ads of natural gas altogether. And we would like to see them also negotiate the portion of renewables they get from Duke Energy. To increase it back to want it was a few years ago." The motion was seconded by Ms. Zipf and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon to invite Kyle to come and speak. The motion was seconded by Dr. Newman and passed unanimously.

B. Dr. Newman proposed to wait and present the Clean Energy Resolution to the new council in January 2024.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ms. Zipf suggested writing an ordinance to present to the city council on Air Quality Monitoring in the City of Greenville. Ms. Zipf spoke at previously EAC meetings about letting NOTRA put a purple air monitor at the Aquatic Center in Greenville and attach it to the City of Greenville's Wi-Fi. Due to a possibly of a ransomware risk the city declined. Ms. Zipf stated that the Air Quality ordinance would only be for air quality monitoring.

Mr. Norris mentioned that the City of Greenville at this time has no interest in participating in any type of air quality monitoring. It could be done privately on other facilities than city facilities. Mr. Norris mentioned if anyone is concerned with air quality, to coordinate with DEQ so that any type of air monitoring follows the same protocol that they use in their monitoring and that data is usable.

Dr. Newman suggested Betty Huddleston (Washington Regional Office-NC DEQ) as a first contact.

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon to appoint an air monitoring working group to explore the possibilities of Greenville doing more monitoring of air pollutants. The motion was seconded by Dr. Shaw and passed unanimously.

Dr. Shaw mentioned he would be glad to be a part of that working group.

Ms. Zipf mentioned having a few more conversations Dr. Shaw and Mr. Norris about how to continue to move forward and reporting back at the November meeting.

B. Dr. Newman mentioned proposing having an ECU student as a member of the EAC. Mr. Norris replied that would mean an ordinance change.

9. OTHER– FYI

None.

10. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

- A.** Update from the Tree Working Group
- B.** Follow up on Air Quality Monitoring
- C.** Clean Energy Resolution-January 2024

11. ADJOURNMENT

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