

# ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

January 4, 2024

## 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  
Marion Blackburn, City Council Liaison

### GUEST:

Kyle Brown, GUC  
Jeff Monico, Sierra Club

## 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## 3. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 7, 2023 MINUTES

Dr. McKinnon stated that a grammar correction was sent to Ms. Martin by email. The correction was made prior to the meeting.

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

## 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Shaw announced that our chairman Dr. McKinnon's new book is out. Dr. Shaw mentioned that he has a copy of the new book and it's very interesting about biodiversity in ancient lakes. Mr. Monico mentioned even if you are not a biologist or a science person this book is very interesting.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

**A.** Kyle Brown gave a presentation on Community Solar.

Some highlights:

- What is community Solar? A program in which the local utility will install a solar facility and make the output of that facility available to customers for purchase.
- Why community solar at GUC? Over the last several years there have continued to see a growing interest in renewable energy. Specifically from residential customers.
- The two 5 mega watt solar facilities will be at Rams Horn Road and Fleming School Road.

**B.** Dr. McKinnon mentioned it was time for EAC elections for chair and vice-chair.

A motion was made by Dr. Zipf to nominate Dr. McKinnon for chair and Dr. Newman for Vice-Chair for 2024. The motion was seconded by Dr. Shaw and passed unanimously.

**C.** Dr. Zipf asked about what month would be good to invite Dr. Suzanne and Betsy Huddleston to an EAC meeting to discuss Air-Quality monitoring. Dr. Zipf will reach out to both Dr. Suzanne and Betsy Huddleston to check their availability.

**D.** Dr. McKinnon reviewed the PowerPoint draft for the EAC Council Presentation for 2024. The EAC will review the final PowerPoint in February.

This presentation included the 2024 Goals:

1. Establish permanent Sustainability Coordinator position to:

1. Coordinate city, community, and GUC operations to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions, save money on energy.

2. Fulfill a goal of horizon's 2026 Plan of formulating a Green Energy Plan for the city.

2. Work with GUC to encourage shift away from unhealthy, climate warming fossil fuel (natural gas) and toward renewable energy; recommend to council on how to improve oversight to these ends.

3. Continue to encourage community environmental stewardship through Facebook posts, collaboration with the Sierra Club, outreach events.

4. Investigate and make recommendations regarding regionally important air pollutants.

5. Research funding, location opportunities for additional EV charging stations; make recommendations to Council.

6. Review current tree protection, planting policies and make recommendations to Council.

A motion was made by Mr. Gardner to approve the EAC Goals. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trevathan and passed unanimously.

**E.** Mr. Gardner mentioned that Ms. Maxwell had reached out to Kevin Heifferon about scheduling a time to reserve the conference room for the Tree Working Group to meet on January 9<sup>th</sup>. There hasn't been any word back from Kevin Heifferon to confirm the time and date. Mr. Norris noted that we would need to get managements approval for staff and after hours. Mr. Norris stated he would check on this to see if he could get it approved.

**F.** Dr. Newman reviewed the Clean Energy Resolution that was previously emailed out. Some revisions to the wording on number 2 and 3 were made.

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon to adopt the Clean Energy Resolution with the revisions that were discussed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trevathan and passed unanimously.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

**None**

## **8. OTHER– FYI**

**None.**

## **9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS**

**A.** Air Quality Monitoring-Feb.2024

**B.** EAC Council Presentation-Feb. 2024

**D.** Tree Working Group-Feb. 2024

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

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