

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
March 7, 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. Newman, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. The following attended the meeting:

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Yoshi Newman
Robert Shaw
Karin Zipf
Khristi Dixon

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

GUEST:

Abby Kimmel, NC Fellow
Jeff Monico, Sierra Club
Rajendra Jagad, Founder and Program Director at Exchange Effect, Greenville, NC
Members of the North of the River Association

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF February 1, 2024, MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Shaw to approve the February 1, 2024, minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Zipf and passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Newman announced that March is women's history month. There are a lot of activities going on and a lot of information online. It's a wonderful time to highlight incredible achievements of women and how their roles have helped us get to where we are today in a lot of positive ways.

Dr. Zipf mentioned that the public is invited to the ECU International Women's Day 2024, Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at the student center. Everything is free with lunch, and you can register when you get there.

Dr Newman mentioned Tuesday was election day and the results still are not official. They will not certify results for local contests until March 15th. For all other contests those will be certified on March 26th. If necessary, there will be a secondary primary on May 14th.

Mr. Norris mentioned any agenda items for the EAC meetings, need to be to Mr. Norris by closing of business on the Tuesday (the week prior) before the meeting. So, they can be added to the agenda before it gets put out.

Dr. Newman mentioned at the council workshop on Monday, March 11th, at 4pm, the planning and development department will be updating the council on their review of the amendment revisions and retracting an amendment that allowed for crypto currency mining in the downtown area.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Jeff Monico, Sierra Club, mentioned that Pat Printer, Daily Reflector, is creating an article on Home solar. Mr. Printer would like to interview more people with home solar. If anyone has home solar or knows anyone that has home solar let me know or you can go directly to Mr. Printer.

Rajendra Jaded, Founder and Program Director at Exchange Effect, Greenville, NC, presented a brief video on nanoparticles and air quality.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sinan Souzan, PhD (Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health at ECU, and North Carolina Aeromedicine Institute) presented a presentation on Air Quality in Greenville, NC.

B. Dr. Newman spoke with Ms. Maxwell and Mr. Gardner for updates on the Tree Working Group. Ms. Blackburn is working with the School of Government to find out if there are any legislative restrictions, ideas about tree ordinances and promoting native plants and native grasses. Dr. Newman and Ms. Maxwell want to continue with the community meeting. They are still working on a meeting room. There will be more updates at the next meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ms. Dixon spoke on a public health concern about the new research on the addition of Fluoride into our water. Dr. Shaw mentioned having someone from the Dental school to look at the articles and give their comments. Dr. Shaw will contact someone at the Dental School and ask them to look over the articles, before the EAC Commission will draft a Resolution.

B. Dr. Shaw and Dr McKinnon had a meeting on February 29th, with Micheal Cowin, City Manager, and Ken Graves, Deputy City Manager, to advocate for the city to put into the current budget appropriate funds to hire a Sustainability Manager for the City of Greenville. Dr. Shaw reviewed all previous effects from the EAC Commission over the past three or four years to hire a Sustainability Manager. Dr. Shaw also points out in 2021 two Duke grad students did a greenhouse gas inventory and discovered that vehicle admissions is part of the major source of greenhouse gas in the city of Greenville. They had some recommendations on how to reduce greenhouse gases admissions. One of their recommendations was that the city hire a

Sustainability Manager to coordinate effects of various city departments to reduce greenhouse gas admissions. In 2023, Abby Kimmel was brought on from NC Fellows Program. Dr. Shaw and Dr. McKinnon left the meeting feeling hopeful that it might get put into the proposed budget.

8. OTHER– FYI -None

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

A. Tree Working Group-April 2024

B. Fluoride Study-April 2024

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Shaw to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Zipf and passed unanimously.