

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

May 2, 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 Garner
Karin Zipf

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

GUEST:

Jeff Monico, Sierra Club
Rhonda Baylor

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF April 4, 2024, MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Trevathan to approve the April 4, 2024, minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. McKinnon and passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dr. McKinnon and Dr. Newman attended the Greenville Urban Metropolitan Planning Association recently. There was a lot of discussion on shifting invests on Greenville Transportation planning, to bikes and pedestrian traffic and transit.
- Ms. Blackburn announced that May 8, 2024, there will be a public hearing regarding changes to crypto mining regulations.
- Dr. McKinnon and Dr. Zipf will be doing an ECU Sustainability teaching workshop.
- Ms. Blackburn mentioned the new Solar Panel Company coming to Greenville.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD -None

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Gardner announced that the Tree Working Group has now met three times at the City of Greenville - Public Works conference room. The Tree Working Group has been looking at other cities' tree ordinances. This will help formulate where we want to go with our own desires and goals for ordinances. They will be meeting with Chantae Gooby (City of Greenville-Planning and Zoning) to talk about what planning has, in terms of their own jurisdiction and regulations.

Dr. Zipf briefly recapped Dr. Sinan Souzan's, Air Quality presentation which mentioned that we don't have any vital air quality monitoring going on in Greenville. Dr. Souzan is hoping to get some grant funding to do much more intensive monitoring. One of the things grant funds could help with is creating a study on air quality north of the river. Where volunteers from north of the river would wear (on yourself) individual air quality monitors. You can have them calibrated to whatever you are allergic to. Dr. Zipf asked if the commission had any projects going on that could bring two groups (ECU Public Health and NOTRA) together to help with this study.

Dr. McKinnon suggested the EAC commission draft a statement in support of investigating on this matter. And we view this as an important issue and needs to be addressed.

Ms. Kirby asked for the contact information for Dr. Souzan and NOTRA. Ms. Kirby stated she may have some ideas that may fit into this study.

C. Dr. McKinnon suggested that the EAC speak on hiring a permanent sustainability manager at the council meeting on Monday- May 6th during the public comment period and the public hearing on Thursday-May 9th. Dr. McKinnon also mentioned previously the commission had discussed speaking to the representatives individually before the budget meetings.

Dr. Zipf asked if Abby Kimmel could write an annual report of what she has accomplished and any suggestions on what more a sustainability manager could do.

Dr. Newman mentioned that she had previously asked Ms. Kimmel for data that she had collected. This was to be used to take to council to promote for a permanent sustainability manager.

Dr. Zipf listed four questions to ask Ms. Kimmel.

- What projects have you been working on?
- What projects have you completed?
- What materials or resources would have made your job more effective?
- What future projects would be vital for a future sustainability manager in the future?

Dr. Newman also wanted to ask:

What recommendations do you have for contamination of city recycling?

Dr. McKinnon will send out an email to Ms. Kimmel asking the five questions Dr. Zipf and Dr. Newman mentioned.

A motion was made by Dr. McKinnon to individually speak to our council members on the issue of a sustainability manager. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner and passed unanimously.

Mr. Monico mentioned that the Sierra Club members could also reach out to the city council members.

D. Dr. Zipf will be at the public hearing on Thursday-May 9th to discuss the changes to the crypto mining ordinance.

7. NEW BUSINESS - None

8. OTHER– FYI -None

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

A. Fluoride Discussion-June 2024

B. Sustainability Manager-June 2024

C. TreeWorking Group-June 2024

D. EV Charging-June 2024

E. Flood Plain Program for Public Information- June 2024

10. ADJOURNMENT

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