

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

June 6, 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
Karin Zipf
Khristi Dixon

OTHERS PRESENT:

Daryl Norris, City of Greenville
Wanda Martin, City of Greenville
Marion Blackburn, City Council Liaison

GUEST:

Jeff Monico, Sierra Club

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF May 2, 2024, MINUTES

Dr. McKinnon stated that a few corrections was sent to Ms. Martin by email.

Dr. Zipf also mentioned a correction in spelling for Dr. Sousan's name.

Dr. McKinnon asked for a clarification on "vital air quality monitoring". Dr. Zipf added that it should be "VOC (Vital Organic Compounds) Air Quality Monitoring".

A motion was made by Ms. Dixon to approve the May 2, 2024, minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trevathan and passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUCEMENTS

- Mr. Norris mentioned that the city is taking the opportunity for a grant from the EPA "Community Change Grant", With applications for ten to twenty million dollar projects. The City of Greenville is putting together an application for this. The city of Greenville held a public meeting last night at Greenfield Terrence to get some feedback from residences and community members north of the river. This feedback will help with details in the grant application. The City of Greenville is proposing it to build an Engineering building and a second Emergency Operations Center north of the river.
- Mr. Norris announced that half of the Engineering department have now moved to the municipal building. The other half will remain at Public Works. Future meetings of the EAC will be held at the conference room (Room 208) on the second floor of the municipal building. (Across from city hall)

- Dr. McKinnon attended the first unified development ordinance commission. They discussed parking, bicycle and pedestrian pathways, EV plugins and stuff about trees.
- Dr. Zipf and Dr. McKinnon attended the ECU Sustainability teaching workshop. Chad Carwin put together this two-day workshop on how to understand more about sustainability at ECU and how ECU partners with the city in various ways. They took tours of the storm water drainage sites and a train tour.
- Dr. Zipf attended the public hearing on crypto-mining regulations. The council accepted a whole slate of new regulations to try to protect Greenville residences from excessive noise pollution and excessive use of our energy.
- Dr. McKinnon announced that council added to the proposed budget to hire a full time Sustainability Manager position. Dr. McKinnon shared a toast with everyone to celebrate.
- Ms. Blackburn announced the city council will have a public hearing on the budget Monday and a second meeting on Thursday, to adopt the budget.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD -Mr. Monico announced that Mr. York has suggested to rename to Rivers Edge Park near the South Tar River Greenway. They suggest writing a letter of support to the city's Parks and Recreations department, suggesting naming the park.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Dr. McKinnon read Mr. Gardner's Tree Working Group updated report.

Mr. Norris mentioned getting a few questions about the Tree Working Group. Mr. Norris explained the formation and role of the subcommittee of the EAC and staff's role.

B. Dr. McKinnon recommended discussing Fluoride in the August meeting since DR. Shaw wasn't present. Dr. McKinnon suggested to make a recommendation to the city to carefully review the new developments. Ms. Blackburn mentioned that the city did not have Public Health that would be the county. Dr. McKinnon stated that more can be discussed in August.

C. Mr. Trevathan mentioned he had a conversation with Kevin Heifferon. There is nothing new going on with public EV Charging stations. Mr. Trevathan added that Mr. Heifferon mentioned that they did apply for a grant for two electric busses. Mr. Heifferon is looking into getting EV charging stations to charge the buses. Mr. Heifferon also mentioned that they had some hybrid cars that are doing well.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A-Dr. Zipf asked the EAC if they had any suggestions for the Community Change Grant that was previously mentioned by Mr. Norris. Mr. Norris stated he needed feedback to give to the consultant by Wednesday. (6-12-2024) Dr. Zipf proposed EV Charging Stations north of the river. Some suggested places are Wildwood Park and River Park North. Dr. McKinnon mentioned to explore adding EV Charging stations wherever it may fix. Dr. McKinnon also suggested to try to eliminate natural gas use and informulable science in the wet land areas.

B. Dr. Newman asked Mr. Norris about the Energy Efficiently Resolution that the EAC passed back in January. From a previous conversation with Ms. Kirby, Mr. Norris was going to forward

it to the City Clerk to forward to city council. Mr. Norris replied that it had been sent but Dr. Newman stated that city council hasn't seen it yet.

8. OTHER– FYI -None

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

A. Tree Working Group-August 2024

B. Fluoride Discussion- August 2024

C. Flood Plain Program for Public Information- August 2024

10. ADJOURNMENT

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