

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

August 1, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Members of the Environmental Advisory Commission met on the above date at 5:30 p.m. Municipal Building 2nd floor 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

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 JUNE 6, 2024, MINUTES

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

A motion was made by Thomas Trevathan to approve the June 6, 2024, minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Shaw and passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUCEMENTS

- Mr. Norris mentioned that the BRIC grant for the East Fire Tower Road culverts and floodplain plain benching project, was fully awarded 9.2 million dollars.
- Dr. McKinnon mentioned the council approval for the new position for Sustainability Coordinator. Mr. Norris announce that the position must be created through the City Manager and HR before it can be posted. This position will be housed under Public Works. Dr. McKinnon mentioned writing Mr. Cowin and let him know the EAC is interested in having the opportunity to contribute in any of the aspects of this process.
- Dr. Newman encouraged everyone if they haven't done so already to do the Unified Development Ordinance Survey and attend the public meetings.
- Dr. Shaw and Mr. Norris attended the UDO stakeholders meeting. The things that were discussed were permeable parking lots and retention ponds. GUC making solar panels more favorable for businesses. Net metering needs to be applied to businesses and not just residents. Dr. Shaw mentioned the questionnaire that the UDO sent out, people in the

city of Greenville want more walking and biking available. Mr. Norris mentioned that the UDO is planning to have some public meetings. Mr. Shaw stated that the UDO has a website that anyone can get updates from.

- Dr. Newman and Dr. McKinnon attended the RHMP-Neuse River Hazard Mitigation Plan stakeholders meeting. This plan and a survey are now available on the website.
- Dr. McKinnon asked to add a discussion of GUC to the agenda.
A motion was made by Dr. Newman, seconded by Tom Trevathan, and passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD -None

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Gardner stated that the Tree working group has meet now twice. (June and July)

The Tree working group is working on:

- The UDO task force has been a big part of their discussions. The Tree working group encourages taking the tree survey and attending the public meetings.
- The Tree working group is looking into more tree canopy in Greenville.
- Mr. Gardner mentioned he had previously sent out a document from Andrea Pike. (Carolina Seasons Nursery) The Tree working group has been working on improving the present tree ordinances.
- The Tree working group is also advocating for a full-time Arborist or an Urban Forester.

B. Dr. Shaw referenced an article that Ms. Dixon sent on babies born from moms that were exposed to fluoride in the water. These babies had slightly lower IQ than the nonfluorine babies.

Dr. Shaw proposes approaching the ECU dental school to come and give a presentation to the EAC.

C. Mr. Norris did a presentation for the Program for Public Information. The presentation was on how we communicate public information about floodplain and public awareness. Mr. Norris also reviewed the Program for Public Information 2023 Annual Progress Report. Mr. Norris shared the new flood brochures that will be sent out.

Two Recommendations:

- Improve the translation success by starting with working with the ECU language department.
- Broadening the twitter and Facebook to just social accounts.

The EAC suggested to follow up with the recommendations earlier in the year. (January 2025).

A motion was made by Dr. Zipf to approve the Program for Public Information with the two recommendations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Shaw and passed unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS-none

8. OTHER– FYI -None

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

A. Tree Working Group-September 2024

B. GUC and Natural Gas September 2024

C. Fluoride Discussion- September 2024

10. ADJOURNMENT

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