

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
December 5, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Members of the Environmental Advisory Commission met on the above date at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Public Works Facility. Mr. Robert Chin, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. The following attended the meeting:

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Mr. Scott Anderson
Dr. Robert Chin
Dr. David Kimmel

Mr. Owen Burney
Mr. Hugh Cox

OTHERS PRESENT:

Council Member Marion Blackburn
Council Member – Elect Rick Smiley
Eban Bean, ECU
Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Kirby requested New Business Agenda Item A (FROGGS Update) be removed from the agenda as the representative for that group was not present. A motion was made by Mr. Cox to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Burney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 3, 2013 MINUTES

Mr. Anderson made a motion to accept the October 3, 2013 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kimmel and passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dr. Bean gave an update on the 2013 Grant Award. Dr. Bean informed the group that J.H. Rose High School had three classes in their Science program that had been studying and reviewing Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) and erosion concerns related to stormwater runoff. Two classes are scheduled to tour local BMPs on Monday, December 9, 2013. A weather station has been ordered and will be sited, installed, and monitored when received.
- Council Member Blackburn inquired on the status of the vacant EAC position. Ms. Kirby will make contact with the City's Public Information Office and regarding the potential of having the vacancy advertised on GTV9. Council Member Blackburn will also scout for potential candidates.
- Mr. Anderson asked if there was an update on Greenways status. Ms. Kirby reported that easements and property acquisitions were being obtained at this time for Greens Mill Run and South Tar River Greenway was in the design phase.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. FROGGS Update

This item was removed from the agenda.

B. ECU Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance Project

Dr. Eban Bean was present to give an update on the stabilization strategy of the tributary to Green Mill Run near St. Andrews Drive that would focus on installation of a Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance (RSC) system. This type of system would recreate or simulate natural bog ecosystems that were drained for agriculture and urban development. Dr. Bean stated that a RSC is well suited for narrow sites with limited access, since much of the vehicle traffic can occur within the existing channel.

Dr. Bean's presentation stated the existing site location would be an attractive location for a RSC system based several facts which include the fact that the tributary is an impaired stream that makes watershed restoration projects eligible for funding through North Carolina Department of Environment Natural Resources' (NCDENR) 319 program, close proximity limits travel time for ECU researchers, and the bank failure is causing property loss and existing conditions pose a risk to nearby residents.

Dr. Bean requested EAC to consider providing a letter of support for installing a RSC system at the St. Andrews site of the Greens Mill Run tributary. This letter of support would assist in future endeavors to receive grant funding for the installation of the system. Dr. Chin asked if a resolution of support should be provided in addition to or in lieu of the letter of support. It was determined EAC would provide a resolution of support. Council Member Blackburn suggested Dr. Bean present the information to City Council as well to obtain a letter of support for future grant endeavors.

Dr. Kimmel made a motion to supply Dr. Bean with a resolution of support for installation of an RSC system at the St. Andrews site of the Greens Mill Run tributary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cox and passed unanimously. Dr. Kimmel will draft the resolution and forward to EAC members via email for comments. Council Member Blackburn asked Ms. Kirby to ascertain if the presentation could be added to the City Council agenda for December 12, 2013. Ms. Kirby will work with the Public Works Director and City Manager's office to make the presentation available.

C. Goals & Objectives Presentation

Dr. Chin informed the group that he would be working on the presentation to Council and would forward the presentation to members via email for review and comments. The draft presentation will be presented to EAC at the January 2, 2014 meeting for finalization.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Parking Deck Update

Ms. Kirby directed attention to Attachment B of the agenda package. The attachment was a letter prepared by Mr. Scott Godefroy, City Engineer and Uptown Parking Deck Project Manager. The letter addressed EAC's resolution concerning the Parking Deck and requests for sustainable technologies to be used in the project.

Council Member Blackburn expressed concern that solar panels were not addressed. Ms. Kirby

stated the infrastructure will be able to support solar panels if those panels are provided at a later date.

B. Stormwater Stakeholders Group Update

Dr. Kimmel stated the concern of the Stakeholders group is the long term maintenance of BMPs. Dr. Kimmel also reported the stakeholders group toured the Vidant-Wellness Drive BMP site and discussed common misconceptions regarding maintenance of BMPs. Ms. Kirby stated the primary goal of this second phase of the Stakeholders group is to address long term maintenance concerns. Ms. Kirby further stated the program was initially set up to default to the homeowners in residential situations; however, this is not a viable option due to costs of high-level maintenance of the BMPs. Ms. Kirby stated the stakeholders group is looking into the programs of other municipalities and cities for viable options to address the long term maintenance costs of BMPs.

8. OTHER– FYI

A. Quarterly UST/AST

Mr. Anderson asked about the River Park North AST situation. Mr. Anderson noted the date of this occurrence was March 2005 and asked for a status report. Ms. Kirby stated the incident is still ongoing and will request Mr. Holton provide an update when available. Mr. Anderson also asked about Starlight Alley occurrence. Ms. Kirby stated a limited site assessment was being completed by the City.

Dr. Chin requested a glossary of the acronyms used on the report be added. Dr. Chin also questioned the blank comments section on some of the occurrences. Ms. Kirby will have Mr. Holton revise the report to address these issues.

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – The following items are proposed for the January 2, 2014 meeting:

- A. Elections**
- B. Council Presentation – Review & Finalize**
- C. 2014 Goals**
- D. 2014 EAC Grant**
- E. GCPP Discussion**

10. Adjournment –There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Anderson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burney and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.