

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
August 1, 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. Scott Anderson, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. The following attended the meeting:

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Mr. Scott Anderson
Mr. Owen Burney
Dr. David Kimmel

Dr. Michael Behm
Mr. Hugh Cox
Dr. Caroline Loop

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Mulligan, City of Greenville
Kinsey Holton, City of Greenville
Harry Stubbs, FROGGS

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Cox requested a discussion of the inclusion of solar panels be added to the Parking Deck (Old Business, Item A) and to consider a Resolution of Support by EAC to City Council.

3. APPROVAL OF MAY 2, 2013 MINUTES

Mr. Burney made a motion to accept the May 2, 2013 minutes as presented and approve the June 6, 2013 Fracking discussion as listed in Item 4. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cox and passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 6, 2013 FRACKING DISCUSSION

This item was combined with Item 3 above. The motion was made by Mr. Burney and seconded by Mr. Cox to approve the Fracking discussion of June 6, 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Anderson asked if there were any updates regarding the General Assembly bill on controlling the local governments' ability to enforce more stringent environmental regulations than State or Federal requirements. Mr. Holton commented he had attempted to contact a representative to ascertain the status of this bill; however, he was unable to reach anyone to obtain the information prior to this meeting. Dr. Loop asked if existing stormwater regulations would be effected by the bill. Mr. Holton answered that we currently follow regulations established by the Tar-Pamlico Stormwater rule which follows regulations set up by the State; therefore the City would not be effected.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. FROGGS Update

Mr. Harry Stubbs was present to update EAC on FROGGS projects. Mr. Stubbs reported that the Greens Mill Run Phase 2 Extension project had acquired right of ways and bids would be going out with the next few months with an award being anticipated in September 2013 and a completion date in June 2014. Mr. Mulligan interjected that appraisals are complete; however, the easement acquisition will cause delay to start construction in February 2014 and completion at the end of 2014.

Mr. Stubbs also reported on the South Tar River Phase 3 project. He noted there had been a shortfall in funding for the project by as the overall project cost was high than anticipated, but additional funding was obtained. Bids are anticipated to be let in February 2014 with completion in December 2014. Mr. Stubbs also stated Phase 4 of the project had been walked by FROGGS participants and would run under the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge to Port Terminal Road.

Mr. Stubbs announced a second interpretive sign would be installed and located at the dog park. The first sign identified the locks and dams on the Tar River. Grady White boats will be working with FROGGS on a sign regarding boats on the Tar River. Other signs regarding Spanish moss and Hurricane Floyd would be installed pending funding resources.

Mr. Stubbs informed the group that FROGGS would have a table at the Uptown umbrella market on August 28, 2013. They would also have a table at the September 13, 2013 Freeboot Friday.

Mr. Stubbs also informed the group FROGGS would be sponsoring the City Council and Mayoral Candidates forum being held on October 12, 2013 at 11am located at the Town Commons. Mr. Stubbs stated all candidates must be present to talk and no written statements would be read.

Mr. Stubbs stated on October 26, 2013, an "Owl Prowl" would be held for children to look at flora and fauna. The director of River Park North will be escorting the children on an expedition beginning at Green Springs Park and extend to the off-leash dog park along the bicycle trail. The Owl Prowl will conclude at Green Springs Park with a s'mores cookout.

Mr. Stubbs also informed the group that a member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission had resigned and the commission was looking for a new member. Mr. Stubbs asked EAC members to recommend anyone they may know to submit an application to the talent bank for consideration.

Dr. Behm asked Mr. Stubbs how EAC could help FROGGS. Mr. Stubbs commented that citizens needed to be kept informed with City projects. Dr. Behm asked if FROGGS would consider partnering with EAC's Grant Program. Dr. Behm suggested the Grant could focus on bicycle and pedestrian projects being considered by FROGGS. Mr. Anderson also suggested consideration of a sign along the Greens Mill Run Greenway about stormwater management and water quality as a part of the grant. Dr. Loop suggested having informational material provided for use during a walk to identify projects that have been initiated and completed along the Greenway. FROGGS and EAC will continue to discuss the possibility of how common grants could be accomplished.

Mr. Stubbs announced the next FROGGS meeting would be held on September 12, 2013 in the arts center at Jaycee Park at 5:30pm. There are online newsletters for FROGGS as well. Dr. Behm suggested EAC members attend this meeting and present information on EAC's Grant program and solicit possible ideas for partnering and obtaining funding.

B. EAC Grant – Funding Sources – Goal #7

Mr. Holton provided those present with a list of funding sources as distributed at the May 2, 2013 meeting by Dr. Chin. Dr. Loop inquired about the current funding of the Grant Program. Mr. Holton stated the past two years funding had been obtained by the City of Greenville's Stormwater Management budget from the education component. This allowed schools to apply and receive funding for projects such as those presented at the June 6, 2013 Grant Award Ceremony. However, Mr. Holton also stated the Grant was not established solely to have Stormwater projects as a main focus in upcoming years and these subsequent grant qualifications would be established by the funding source.

Dr. Behm asked if EAC had sent a thank you note to Eban Bean for his assistance in completing the Grant application from J.H. Rose High School. Dr. Behm made a motion to have Mr. Holton send a thank you note. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kimmel and passed unanimously. Mr. Holton also informed the group the current grant agreement had been forwarded to J.H. Rose for completion.

Mr. Mulligan informed the group that the Recycling program had obtained funding from Harris Teeter and Coke for City of Greenville citizens in their recycling efforts. Mr. Mulligan suggested this could be a potential funding source for future EAC Grant projects. Dr. Behm asked what action should be taken to follow up with these funding possibilities. Mr. Mulligan stated he would initiate contact with Red Moon Marketing to ascertain if they would be interested in partnering with EAC to establish future grant funding.

Dr. Loop asked if recycling saved Pitt County money. Mr. Mulligan stated that recycling did save Pitt County money as it kept overhead costs of refuse being transported and maintained at the landfill. Mr. Mulligan also stated all recycling was transported to ECVC for handling. Mr. Anderson asked if EAC had toured the ECVC facility in the past. Mr. Cox stated he believed EAC had toured the facility; however, none of the current members were a part of EAC at the time of that tour. Mr. Anderson asked if EAC should set up a tour and asked that City staff obtain information and report back to EAC.

Mr. Anderson furthered the discussion on funding sources by asking if it was Dr. Chin's intent to have members review and research the possible funding sources submitted. Mr. Holton stated that he believed Dr. Chin wanted to establish ideas for funding with the goal of expanding on those presented and furthering investigation of other sources as well. Dr. Behm reminded everyone of the service learning agreement with ECU and suggested the possibility of having students research the list presented to best determine the funding available to the EAC Grant Program.

Mr. Anderson stated local firms could be a source of possible funding. These firms could establish projects that would impact the City's environmental issues. Dr. Kimmel stated that he works with PCS Phosphate as a water quality contractor and would make contact with them to determine if possible funding would be available.

C. Quantifying EAC's Efforts – Goal #9

Dr. Behm began by stating the Chairperson of EAC makes a presentation to City Council in January of each year. He furthered stated the goals established by EAC were to verify the Commission was making progress in obtaining the desired goal set forth by City Council for EAC. The year-end report would outline EAC's efforts and the impacts from those efforts.

Dr. Loop asked if there were any avenues of informing the public that EAC had obtained their

specific goals apart from the annual report presented to City Council. Mr. Holton stated GTV was an outlet for informing citizens of EAC projects. Dr. Kimmel asked if radio segments were a possibility and suggested Public Radio East. Dr. Kimmel also suggested using ECU students to survey the public on environmental issues. Dr. Behm made a motion to have Dr. Kimmel initiate a draft survey addressing environmental issues to be reviewed by EAC and then distributed to the public. Mr. Burney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Kimmel will send out an email to EAC members soliciting topics and questions for such a survey.

Dr. Loop asked if there was information available as to areas of the City that recycled more than others. Mr. Mulligan stated that specific data was not available as it was not quantified with actual information; however, route lengths and the number of stops on each route could provide potential recycling efforts in a given area. Dr. Loop commented a survey could be used to determine the motivation of citizens to recycle. Dr. Kimmel stated if he could obtain the information maintained by the City he could crunch data on recycling for trending.

Dr. Loop identified some measurable items for quantifying EAC's efforts as: money for grants, recycling rates, literacy with surveys, activities completed (yes or no) information, dissemination, meetings attended, and Council requests and recommendations.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Parking Deck Update

Mr. Mulligan reported a meeting was held on August 1, 2013 and a construction/design firm had been selected for the design contract with a budget of \$4M and will be presented to City Council for approval. Barnhill was selected as the contractor who will complete the design and construction along with local engineering firms. Sustainable design initiatives are being considered, such as solar panels on the roof. At this time, the solar panels are not a part of the budget, but the City is open to other companies becoming involved and is also dependent upon the structural design of the parking structure. There would also be a cost for the additional structural loading from the panels. Mr. Mulligan also stated the use of reclaimed materials, VOC paints, bicycle options, LED lights, electric vehicle parking and charging, and stormwater/gray water systems are being considered. The project is still under the scoping process and a public meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2013 at 3:30pm with the location undetermined at this time. Staff will obtain the location information and report back to EAC members.

Mr. Holton addressed the request made by Council Member Blackburn's regarding a Resolution of Support for solar panels being added to the parking deck structure. Mr. Cox made a motion tabling the discussion until additional information is available on how solar panels would be incorporated into the project. After further discussion, Mr. Cox rescinded his motion and Mr. Anderson made a motion for EAC to adopt a resolution of assessment for the incorporation of sustainable design elements into the parking deck project with the stipulation that specific projects would be addressed at a later date. The motion was seconded by Dr. Behm and passed unanimously.

8. OTHER- FYI

A. EAC Calendar – Finalized

B. Recycling Report

C. Quarterly UST/AST Report

Mr. Anderson informed the new members of the details of the UST/AST report. Dr. Loop asked if

information was available for providing details as to how close the violations were to drinking water and viable water sources. Mr. Holton stated the information is available on the DENR website but was not reported in the information provided. Dr. Loop asked if this information could be provided on a GIS type layout or spatial format to determine if the spills/violations were near a water source as this information could be utilized in a future project.

D. Membership Roster

9. **PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS** – The following items are proposed for the September 5, 2013 meeting:
 - A. **Resource Conservation Promotion (Goal #4)**
 - B. **EAC Citizen Engagement (Goal #1)**
 - C. **GTV – PSA – October, November, December**
 - D. **Plastics Brochure Distribution Discussion**

10. **Adjournment** –There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Anderson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kimmel and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.