

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
March 7, 2013

1. 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:

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Mr. Scott Anderson
Mr. Owen Burney
Mr. Jay Holley

Dr. Michael Behm
Mr. Hugh Cox

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kinsey Holton, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Holton requested the Stormwater Annual report to be removed from the agenda and be presented at the April 4, 2013 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Holley to approve this request. A second was made by Mr. Burney and the motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 7, 2013 MINUTES

Mr. Cox made a motion to accept the February 7, 2013 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Behm and the motion passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Announcements

- Mr. Holley reminded everyone of the efforts with Dr. Mitra's Environmental Forensic Course to visit locations within the City. The class will establish monitoring of water and air quality in the Town creek area as well.
- Mr. Holton reported the City provided the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation with a letter of support for their grant application in conjunction with East Carolina University (ECU) to install four bioretention facilities on ECU's campus.
- Dr. Behm asked if there was any update on the replacement of Jay Holley on EAC commission. Mr. Holton responded the City Council would pull applications submitted from the talent bank and vote on the new member. This action is scheduled on the April 2013 City Council agenda.

B. Stormwater Annual Report

This item was tabled to the April 4, 2013 meeting.

C. LEED Policy

Mr. Anderson directed attention to the LEED policy attached to the agenda. Mr. Holton explained the resolution to adopt a policy to implement Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) was presented to City Council in December 2008. The policy would put into effect three levels quality for the construction, renovations, or additions to City-owned buildings.

The first level of quality applies to buildings over 10,000 square feet and would require a minimum of a LEED-Silver qualification and to be certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. A waiver could be allowed by City Council when the building is not a suitable project for the Green Building program. Greenville Utilities Board of Commissioners may grant a waiver to this requirement for buildings managed by Greenville Utilities when the building is not a suitable project for the Green Building Council.

The second level of quality applies to buildings from 5,000 to 10,000 square feet and would require a minimum of LEED-Certified and to be certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. A waiver could be allowed by City Council when the building is not a suitable project for the Green Building program. Greenville Utilities Board of Commissioners may grant a waiver to this requirement for buildings managed by Greenville Utilities when the building is not a suitable project for the Green Building Council.

The third level of quality applies to buildings less than 5,000 square feet and would require a minimum of LEED-Certified and would not require certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. A waiver could be allowed by the City Manager when the building is not a suitable project for the Green Building program. The General Manager of Greenville Utilities may grant a waiver to this requirement for buildings managed by Greenville Utilities when the building is not a suitable project for the Green Building Council.

Dr. Behm asked if the new parking deck being discussed for the downtown area would be required to meet the LEED policy and also asked if EAC would be in a role to advise City staff with recommendations on environmental improvements such as installation of solar panels. Mr. Holton replied he felt EAC would need to obtain information on the parking deck, i.e. what phase the project is in, location of the project, current environmental design elements, etc. Dr. Behm asked if this information could be obtained and presented to EAC in a summary report. Mr. Holton stated he would contact the Community Development/Planning Department with the City and inquire about the possibility of having someone attend the April 2013 EAC meeting to give a status report on the proposed parking deck.

D. Sustainable Development Data Collection

Mr. Holton stated Dr. Chin inquired on the availability of data collection for sustainable development. Mr. Holton commented he had spoken with Lisa Kirby, Senior Engineer for the City of Greenville. Ms. Kirby's synopsis is the current sustainable practices are fairly broad in nature addressing both operations and public infrastructure development. The City is looking at its municipal operations to establish goals and benchmarks. Ms. Kirby anticipates the information being available within the next six months. Mr. Kirby also explained the City has completed energy audits of all City facilities and entered into an Energy Savings Performance Contract. Renovations are underway; however, there are no

details available on the types of projects or potential savings.

Mr. Holton explained the City currently reports the recycling diversion rate to EAC; however, he would need a more specific list of what information would like to be collected. Mr. Holton commented Greenville Utilities (GUC) may collect data based on their E300 program and could contact them to obtain this information if EAC was interested.

Mr. Anderson asked if information was collected on the alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles operated by the City. Mr. Holton responded he was unaware if this information was tracked and would research to see if the information was available. Mr. Anderson also asked if any of the potential stormwater retrofits opportunities reported in the annual program have ever been completed. Mr. Holton stated he believed one located at the Fire Station No. 5 had been completed at the time of construction. Mr. Holton also stated there were potentially five to eight retrofit opportunities available at the present time but funding was not available to complete them at this time.

Mr. Holton stated that as a result of the sustainability plan the City is in the process of developing, Ms. Kirby will be collecting data and this information will be reported to EAC when available.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. EAC Grant Program – Current Grant Update

Mr. Holton reported that Dr. Behm and Ms. Williamson had revised the two-page fact sheet for the grant and forwarded this along with the grant application package to Ms. Karen Quick, Science Coordinator with Pitt County Schools. The complete package will be posted online for applicants as well. Mr. Holton informed the group of a request by J.H. Rose High School for a copy of the application package.

Mr. Holton also reported the Wahl-Coates 4-H Club has received the first installment of 45% of the current funds and will be receiving the second installment on Friday, March 15, 2013. Mr. Holton stated the club will be performing monitoring in April and would like to use this opportunity for EAC members to attend along with the Public Information Office with the City and possibly The Daily Reflector to publicly promote the grant. Mr. Holton will confirm the date and inform members by email.

Dr. Behm questioned the possibility of informing Karen Quick of the monitoring to allow others the opportunity to witness a project in progress. Mr. Holton commented he felt this would be a great time to showcase the grant and could potentially provide future ideas for the upcoming grant.

B. Council Goals & Objectives

Mr. Anderson began the discussion by addressing the goals developed by Dr. Behm and distributed to those present. The list distributed also included comments from EAC members on each item for discussion.

The first goal addressed was “Identify and deploy five ways in which to engage citizens in environmental sustainability.” Dr. Behm’s identified the first initiative as “Support a public school with funding that supports an environmental sustainability project.”

Mr. Holley asked how the decision was made to specifically include five ways. Dr. Behm

stated the number could be flexible as opportunities were identified and/or completed. Mr. Holley then commented he felt Mr. Burney's comment could be identified as the second initiative of the goal as well. This initiative would be to "Educate citizens on environmental sustainability and how each citizen can have an impact."

Mr. Anderson suggested removing the number of initiatives associated with the first goal be removed and have the goal read "Identify and deploy ways in which to engage citizens in environmental sustainability." Everyone present agreed with the change in wording and the first goal with two initiatives was established.

The second goal discussed was "Increase deliberate and intentional engagement with Council and other commissions." Ms. Williamson's comment suggested developing the goal to include additional wording that would "provide guidance/information to demonstrate that environmental sustainability supports economic and social sustainability." The final wording of the goal reads as "Increase deliberate and intentional engagement with Council and other commissions, by providing guidance/information to demonstrate that environmental sustainability supports economic and social sustainability."

The third goal presented was "Identify and suggest five ways to reduce volume of our waste." Mr. Anderson suggested removing the specific number of five which would allow more initiatives to be initiated as they may become available. The third goal was completed and will read as "Identify and suggest ways to reduce volume of our waste."

The fourth goal presented was "Seek ways to preserve our "liquid gold." Mr. Anderson addressed the comment by Ms. Williamson that this goal should become part of a waste reduction issue. Mr. Anderson stated he didn't feel this should be a waste reduction. Mr. Anderson also addressed Mr. Holley's comment regarding the annual stormwater permitting program. Mr. Anderson also commented he felt the Town Creek initiative should also be considered. Mr. Holton stated he felt the comment by Ms. Williamson was directed more towards a broader resource conservation approach. This would incorporate water efficiency, energy efficiency, waste reduction, etc.

Dr. Behm asked for a recommendation of wording for this goal. After discussion, it was determined the fourth goal would read "Promote resource conservation." Initiatives identified for future consideration were waste reduction and water conservation.

The fifth goal discussed was "Incorporate service learning student from ECU in the pursuit of one 2013 EAC goal." Ms. Williamson's comment was to delete this process as it was a tool to help achieve a goal. Mr. Holley commented he would like to see this remain as a goal as it is a measurable task and would meet the goal of making the best use of the Service Learning Program to help make progress on other goals. Those present agreed with Mr. Holley's recommendation and the goal was established as presented.

The sixth goal presented was "Publish and distribute a plastics brochure." Mr. Anderson asked if this should be established as an initiative of another goal or left as presented. Dr. Behm stated he felt the goal should be left as presented. Mr. Holley also commented the goal was still an action item as, although the brochure has been completed, the publishing and distributing of the brochure has not taken place at this time. This goal will remain in place as presented.

The seventh goal presented was "Identify five funding sources for future grants." The goal

was amended to read “Identify and pursue funding sources for future grants.”

The eighth goal discussed was “Develop an inventory of the City’s Public Works’ environmental sustainability accomplishments/achievements.” Ms. Williamson’s comment was to also include others’ initiatives such as FROGGS, Sierra Club, and neighborhood efforts. Mr. Cox stated he would like to begin the process with a small group such as Public Works and graduate to the broader groups suggested by Ms. Williamson. Mr. Holley also commented he felt by collecting information on Public Works facilities and operations, it would allow EAC the opportunity to review and provide feedback to City Council as directed. Dr. Behm suggested rewording the goal to “Develop and communicate an inventory of the City’s Public Works’ environmental sustainability accomplishments/achievements” to allow EAC to communicate data collected to City Council. The goal was amended as suggested.

The ninth goal discussed was “Develop a culture of measuring and disseminating the results of EAC’s efforts.” No changes were made to this goal and will remain as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Holley to accept the goals as presented and amended above. The motion was seconded by Dr. Behm and passed unanimously.

C. Plastic Brochure Update

Mr. Holton presented the final revised copy of the brochure. Mr. Holton will follow up with Ms. Williamson to get an electronic version for web posting. Mr. Anderson also pointed out the light green text on the dark green background was difficult to read. Mr. Holton will also follow up with Ms. Williamson regarding this issue as well. Mr. Anderson then asked about the funding for printing of the brochure. Mr. Holton stated EAC would check with the Director of Public Works to ascertain if funding would be available and would also check on the price of printing the brochure. Mr. Anderson questioned the distribution of the brochure. Mr. Holley suggested Mr. Holton contacting Ms. Cheryl Tafoya, City of Greenville’s Recycling Coordinator to find out if she had contacts that would be beneficial to distribution. Mr. Holton agreed and will discuss this with Ms. Tafoya and report information at the April 4, 2013 meeting. Other suggested locations for distribution were the Convention Center, City library, and public kiosks.

D. GTV – PSA – April, May, June

Mr. Holton asked for ideas for the GTV – PSAs. The following topics were identified:

April – Grant Advertising

May – Plastics Brochure

June – Grant Award

E. GCPP Update

Mr. Cox sent members an update of the February 12, 2013 meeting. Mr. Anderson asked if GCPP could begin working on updating the information regarding the original 5 year plan developed by GCPP. Mr. Cox stated the information should be more readily available to update as the sources for the information have already been determined and will make this a topic of discussion for an upcoming GCPP meeting.

F. UST/AST Report Discussion

Mr. Cox explained this discussion was tabled from the February 7, 2013 meeting to allow Mr. Holley's input on the importance of the UST/AST reports and the follow-up actions that should be pursued by EAC, if any, on the violations reported. Mr. Holley responded by explaining the previous process of notification only reported violations that had been closed out. Mr. Holley stated he felt this process was not beneficial to EAC as there was no action that would allow EAC's input and subsequent possible comment to City Council for advisement. In changing the report to open violations, EAC would be in a position to review these violations and allow for comments to be presented to City Council, if applicable, on the effects of the violation(s) to the environment. Mr. Holley stated if EAC was not going to invest time in reviewing the report for actions it may not be worth the effort of staff to prepare on a monthly basis. However, it would still be beneficial for EAC to be abreast of open violations and the report should be reviewed on a quarterly basis for information. Mr. Holley also stated he felt EAC should review public notice of violations on a monthly basis. It was determined the list of open violations report of UST/AST will be reviewed on a quarterly basis and the public notice of violations would be reported on a monthly basis. The next UST/AST report for open violations will be presented in August due to the June Award Program and no meeting in July. The monthly report will be in April.

8. OTHER– FYI

A. Recycling Report

Mr. Holton informed the group that due to information being delayed by Pitt County to City staff, the recycling report will be two months behind beginning with this month's report.

B. UST/AST Report

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – The following items are proposed for the April 4, 2013 meeting:

A. FROGGS Update

B. EAG Grant Program – Update

C. Stormwater Annual Report

D. Summary Report – Parking Deck

E. Plastics Brochure – Distribution Project

F. GCPP Update

10. Adjournment –There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.