

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
May 2, 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. Dr. Bob Chin, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. The following attended the meeting:

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Dr. Michael Behm
Mr. Owen Burney

Dr. Bob Chin
Mr. Hugh Cox

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Godefroy, City of Greenville
Kinsey Holton, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Tom Wisemiller, City of Greenville
Marion Blackburn, Council Member, City of Greenville

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Dr. Behm requested the discussion of EAC goals be added to the agenda as Old Business Item D. A motion was made by Dr. Chin and seconded by Mr. Burney to accept the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF APRIL 4, 2013 MINUTES

Dr. Behm made a motion to accept the April 4, 2013 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burney and passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Holton presented a handout on NC Senate Bill 612 that was passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for consideration. The component of concern on this Bill for the City of Greenville's Stormwater Management Program is the fast tracking of stormwater permits. This would allow an engineer to submit a stormwater management plan certifying it meets the appropriate design standards and is certified by the engineer and would not allow technical review by the City for approval. The Bill would also prohibit local municipalities from enacting environmental regulations more stringent than State or Federal regulations.
- Mr. Holton reported on the Wahl-Coates 4-H Explorers group water sampling expedition in April. Dr. Behm, Mr. Holton and Ms. Braddy attended as well as City of Greenville's GTV9. The video will broadcast as a City Scene item. The video will also be presented at the June 2013 award ceremony.
- Council Member Blackburn announced she has requested City Council discuss the potential lifting of the deep well injunction ban that will allow toxic wastewater to be stored in Eastern North Carolina. This discussion is scheduled on the Thursday, May 9, 2013 Council agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Summary Report – Parking Deck

Mr. Godefroy reported two companies were being evaluated to complete a Construction Manager at-risk contract to develop the Moseley parking lot as the potential site for the parking deck. This would develop and plan for the parking deck and would also provide a not-to-exceed price as well as design for the project. Mr. Godefroy also stated the structure is slated to be a pre-cast build and solar panels will be installed. City Council will entertain the item at its May 9, 2013 council meeting.

Council Member Blackburn asked if the structure is being designed with the consideration of a building on Evans Street to be utilized as a visitors' center. Mr. Godefroy stated he was uncertain at this time as to the status of this inquiry; however, Carl Rees with the City of Greenville's Planning Department could answer any questions on this matter.

Dr. Chin asked if there was a timeframe on the completion of the process for the parking deck. Mr. Holton will contact Mr. Rees and have an update at the August 1, 2013 EAC meeting.

B. Summary Report – Brownfield Grant

Mr. Wisemiller presented a PowerPoint presentation on current EPA Brownfield Assessment Grants. Three \$200,000 assessment grants have been issued in the West Greenville Redevelopment areas. These grants will be utilized to determine inventory, provide assessment, prioritize projects and determine the re-use planning of Brownfield areas in Greenville.

The 2012 Assessment grant provides for the Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) on a block of properties along 5th St., 4th St., Cotanche St., and Reade St. and the former Keel's Warehouse on Dickinson Avenue. Mr. Wisemiller also reported an application for clean up on two parcels associated with the former Imperial Tobacco Warehouse has been submitted. The announcement of award is anticipated in the near future.

Dr. Behm asked if any grants were written that would necessitate EAC's support of the grant application. Mr. Wisemiller stated support from EAC is sought for each grant and provides a strong argument in being awarded. Dr. Behm expressed concern in the input procedure of EAC in the support phase of the grant process. Dr. Behm stated he would like to see EAC more involved in the initial grant application to provide a more informed statement of support for each grant. Dr. Behm also informed Mr. Wisemiller of the service learning agreement in place with ECU and advised that students may be available for future grant writing endeavors.

Council Member Blackburn questioned the statement by Mr. Wisemiller regarding marketing and asked what would be marketed. Mr. Wisemiller stated marketing would be on the inventory of properties that have received a clean bill of health by assessment and the availability of the property for development.

Council Member Blackburn also asked if any there were any clean-up grants or current funds from clean-up grants that could be used for the Town Creek area. Mr. Wisemiller stated the current grant was for the redevelopment areas of West Greenville. Mr. Holton asked if the sources of contamination or the impact of clean-up could be considered. Mr. Wisemiller stated an application

would need to be made and he felt the clean-up may be addressed by a grant application. Mr. Godefroy also pointed out the consideration may not be given based on the fact that the levels of contamination were not above State standards.

C. Sanitation Division Update

Mr. Godefroy informed the group of the desire of the City to move forward with automated sanitation vehicles. This would result in a more efficient process of collecting refuse and would also reduce the risk of employee injuries. Council Member Blackburn also stated she understood recycling carts would be issued to citizens when the new vehicles were implemented.

D. Stormwater Annual Report

Mr. Holton presented those present with the 2011-2012 City of Greenville's Annual Stormwater Report. Mr. Holton reviewed the components of the Stormwater Management Program. Mr. Holton also reviewed the Program Element of the report and detailed lists of Development Types, Best Management Practices (BMP) implemented compliance and enforcement of construction projects, and operation and maintenance projects. The report also presented tables with details of illegal/illicit discharge violations and actions taken, retrofit opportunities, and Public Education Action Report and Plan.

Mr. Holton also stated a Stormwater Utility Fee was in place in the City that is utilized to cover operational expenses to maintain compliance with permits as well as maintain open and closed channel pipe systems.

E. EAC Proposed Calendar

Mr. Holton directed attention to the proposed 2013-2014 EAC calendar. Mr. Holton explained the goals adopted by EAC have been incorporated into these meetings for discussion. A motion was made by Mr. Cox to adopt the calendar as presented. A second was made by Dr. Behm and passed unanimously.

F. Council Chambers Meeting Discussion

Mr. Holton informed the group of the suggestion from the City's Public Information Officer to have EAC meetings relocated to the City Council Chambers to be televised on GTV9. Mr. Cox stated he felt the meetings should continue at Public Works as he believed creativity and discussion would be stifled by live airing of the meetings. Council Member Blackburn commented she believed having the meetings televised would bring public awareness to EAC's projects.

Dr. Behm asked if meetings were moved to Council Chambers, would the option to return to Public Works be viable if the group so desired. Dr. Behm stated he would like to see if the goal of increased Public Awareness could be attained by the group before a decision to move to Council Chambers was made.

After discussion, the members tabled this topic to allow more consideration by members. The issue will be entertained at the April 2014 EAC meeting.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. EAC Grant Application Review

Mr. Holton presented those present with the application received from JH Rose High School for the grant application. Mr. Holton informed the group that the application was received after the required submission date and no other applications had been submitted. Mr. Holton stated the

application met all requirements as outlined in the grant application and the group could motion to have the application be accepted after the deadline submittal date. Mr. Cox made a motion to approve the application after the submittal deadline due date. Dr. Behm seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was then made by Mr. Cox to approve the grant application from JH Rose High School. The motion was seconded by Dr. Behm and passed unanimously.

Dr. Chin gave those present a list of available resources for potential future funding of grants. Dr. Chin asked that everyone review the list and be prepared to discuss at the August 1st EAC meeting.

B. GTV-PSA's – July, August, September

After discussion, Mr. Holton determined the following topics for PSAs; 1) July – Storm drains; 2) August – Groundwater/Surface water; and 3) September – Recycling.

C. GCPP Update

Mr. Cox informed the group of an email received by Mr. Caldwell expressing his opinion that GCPP should disband. Dr. Kenny also informed Mr. Cox that he will be unable to attend future GCPP meetings due to other commitments. Mr. Cox also stated the sustainability plan which was assigned to GCPP as a task would not be completed within the near future and asked EAC members to determine if GCPP should be converted to a less formal group and become an ad hoc group to be utilized as needed. Council Member Blackburn asked if GCPP could be renamed and have the committee become a stakeholders group in the review of the upcoming Horizons Plan update.

A motion was made by Mr. Cox to have GCPP suspend meetings for the indefinite future until such a time as recruiting for new members be accomplished and having an official task assigned. Dr. Behm seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

D. EAC Goals

Due to time constraints, this topic was tabled to be addressed at a later meeting.

8. OTHER– FYI

A. Recycling Report

B. UST Report

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – The following items are proposed for the August 1, 2013 meeting:

A. FROGGS Update

B. EAC Grant Funding Source (Goal #7)

C. Quantifying EAC's Efforts (Goal #9)

D. Quarterly UST/AST Report

10. Adjournment –There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

***Documents following were presented at the May 2, 2013 and were not attached to original agenda.