

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
August 2, 2012

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. Jay Holley, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. The following attended the meeting:

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Mr. Scott Anderson
Mr. Hugh Cox

Dr. Michael Behm
Mr. Jay Holley

OTHERS PRESENT:

Council Member Marion Blackburn, City of Greenville
Harry Stubbs, FROGGS
Kinsey Holton, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Scott Godefroy, City of Greenville
Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville
Chad Thomas, City of Greenville

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 7, 2012 MINUTES

Dr. Behm made a motion to accept the June 7, 2012 minutes as presented. A second was made by Mr. Anderson and the motion passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Announcements

- Mr. Holley informed the group of his attendance to the stormwater workshop presented by Pitt County on the upper Swift Creek - Fork Swamp project held at Pitt Community College on July 26th to discuss the Watershed Management Plan developed for the project. Mr. Holton further explained the details of the plan were to locate potential BMP retrofit sites; develop a stream bank stabilization project at South Central High School; and to conduct an educational workshop to inform the public of these projects. Mr. Holley commented on a subsequent presentation given at the workshop by Mitch Woodward on residential rain gardens and asked those in attendance if it would be advantageous to have Mr. Woodward speak to EAC regarding this subject. Mr. Holton stated he would work with NC State University

Co-Operative to have a presentation given to local citizens regarding these initiatives and will present the information on potential workshops to EAC members for attendance.

- Mr. Holton presented the group with handouts detailing information regarding two projects being handled by Cheryl Tafoya, City of Greenville's Recycling Coordinator. The first project was in conjunction with Keep Greenville Beautiful's effort to control cigarette butt litter. The project will provide for ash receptacles at transition points such as near entrances to public buildings and will also provide pocket ashtrays to adult smokers.

The second project was the 2012 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant awarded by the NC Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach to the City of Greenville. This grant will be used to build a composting demonstration site at the City of Greenville's Public Works Facility and to purchase a limited number of compost bins to be given away to residents attending the compost workshop.

- Dr. Behm announced the approval of an Honors Seminar for the honors college at ECU with a theme of sustainability. Dr. Behm will be working with Dr. Chin in a service learning class environment and would like to have EAC partner with the class to work on sustainability projects. This topic will be added to the September EAC agenda.

B. FROGGS Update

Mr. Harry Stubbs with FROGGS was present to give an update on FROGGS projects. Mr. Stubbs reported FROGGS worked with No Exit Productions in developing a video introducing the City of Greenville's Greenways. The video can be found on youtube.com and the FROGGS website.

FROGGS has also worked to have a historical marker set near the Dog Park on the Greenway recognizing the transportation hub of the Tar River prior to the Civil War.

Mr. Stubbs also reported that FROGGS has been involved in the Green Mill Run Parkway Extension. Mr. Godefroy commented there were right of way acquisitions that will need to be addressed and concerns from residents and ECU regarding the location of the greenway.

Mr. Stubbs also announced on August 23, 2012 at 3pm a meeting will be held at the Public Works Department to review a map being developed by Alta that will detail Pitt County roads on one side and the reverse side will detail the City of Greenville with an inset of downtown Greenville.

C. Sustainability Plan

Ms. Kirby introduced Mr. Chad Thomas, City of Greenville Intern with the City Manager's office. Ms. Kirby began by stating the plan was in the beginning stages and Mr. Thomas and she were studying other cities and municipalities regarding their sustainability practices such as funding and organizational structuring. She reminded EAC of City Council's request to develop a sustainability plan to address local economic development, green building, alternative transportation, clean energy open spaces, light

and noise pollution, and human and animal welfare.

Ms. Kirby presented a draft document regarding sustainability and the results Mr. Thomas and she had obtained and turned the presentation over to Mr. Thomas for further discussion. Mr. Thomas began by defining sustainable development. Mr. Thomas then went through the draft document presented to EAC and listed other cities that currently have sustainability plans and other North Carolina “Cool Cities.”

Mr. Thomas explained the need for a sustainability plan within the City of Greenville by stating it helps spend tax dollars wisely, and implements practices that will help the City to use its limited number of resources wisely. Mr. Thomas also stated the City of Greenville has begun executing sustainable policies practices within various departments. However, there has been very little formal coordination.

Mr. Thomas pointed out four benchmark cities that reflect the approximate population and proximity and sustainable practices comparable to the City of Greenville. Mr. Thomas noted the City of Asheville and the City of Concord currently have sustainability organization; however, the City of Asheville is the only city with a sustainability plan in place.

Mr. Thomas pointed out various options presented in the proposal which were:

- Option 1 – Create a specific sustainability position
- Option 2 – Add the responsibility of sustainability to an existing position
- Option 3 – Create a commission or formal group

Council Member Blackburn expressed concern in creating a new position and stated she felt one of the other options would be a more viable alternative. Ms. Kirby asked for EAC to review the draft document and add comments or suggestions. Ms. Kirby suggested a subcommittee be established to work with her to review the current sustainable practices being utilized by various departments, potential funding sources for a new position, and to research local sustainability plans and identify opportunities to partner with other groups or individuals.

Council Member Blackburn asked if this project would be feasible for GCPP to manage. Ms. Kirby replied that she would like the subcommittee to meet ad-hoc and be available more than once a month. Further discussion was held to Old Business agenda item E.

Mr. Holley asked each member to review the draft document as presented and forward comments to Ms. Kirby by email. This item will be added to the September 6, 2012 EAC agenda for further discussion.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. EAC Grant Program – Discuss Call for Proposal

Mr. Holton began by reiterating information discussed at the June 7, 2012 EAC meeting and stated EAC would like to have additional funding for a stormwater project from Fiscal Year 2012-2013 if available. Mr. Holton advised that funding would not be available in the fiscal year. Mr. Holley asked if funds would be available for a stormwater project and Mr. Holton replied funds would be budgeted for this program in Fiscal Year

2013-2014. Mr. Holley stated that funds from other resources should be considered as an alternative. Mr. Holley also commented that labor efforts should be exercised by each EAC member to determine if sources were available for other project topics.

Mr. Holton also reminded the group of the time limitations of the current target group. Mr. Holley asked members if the target group should be changed to allow for a more consistent timing of the Fiscal Year stormwater funding source. Dr. Behm and Mr. Anderson both commented the current target group was ideal for the education requirement of the stormwater funding. It was also determined the time limits could be revised to have applications due in September/October, the grant awarded in December/January, and the project be completed by June.

Mr. Cox made a motion to have stormwater funding to coincide with City of Greenville planning for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 to provide a grant program for school groups and to have the advertising for the grant began in summer 2013 with award of the grant to be in November of 2013. Dr. Behm seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Bylaws Update – EIS Review

Mr. Holton informed the group of his conversation with Merrill Flood, Community Development Director. Mr. Flood reported the City of Greenville has not had a review of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 25 years for any projects. Mr. Flood also reported the 10th Street Connector was a state project and the City has no review authority of their EIS.

Mr. Holton also reminded the group of the motion made to include EAC did not meet in the month of July in the bylaws.

C. Brochure for Plastic Waste

Mr. Holton passed out draft copies of the plastic brochure to each member. Mr. Anderson asked if a target audience had been established and commented the information may need to be adjusted based on the target group. After review of the brochure, Council Member Blackburn volunteered to make edits and forward the information to members for additional input.

A motion was made by Mr. Holley to have Council Member Blackburn to review the brochure and provide feedback to Dr. Chin. The motion was seconded by Dr. Behm and passed unanimously.

D. EAC Calendar – Finalize

Mr. Holton stated the descriptions in the current calendar would need to be revised to reflect the changes made by EAC on the grant program.

E. GCPP Update

Mr. Holley suggested the quorum of this committee be reviewed. Council Member Blackburn also suggested GCPP take on the sustainability plan and this would increase the potential for membership.

Mr. Cox made a motion to set the membership of GCPP to five members with three at-

large member and two EAC representatives and quorum of three. The motion was seconded by Dr. Behm. A modified mission statement will be presented to EAC with these changes for approval.

A motion was also made by Mr. Cox to recognize the cancellation of the August 14, 2012 meeting of GCPP with the next meeting to be held September 11, 2012. A second was made by Mr. Holley and passed unanimously.

F. EECBG Update

Mr. Godefroy passed out copies of the agenda item presented to City Council in June 2012. The agenda item provided modifications to the EECBG as follows:

- The Existing Home Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund program would be amended to be Existing Commercial Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund Program.
- Removing the Existing Commercial & Multifamily Residential Energy Efficiency Rebate Program.
- Removing the New Energy Star Building Rebate Program
- Removing the Efficient Streetlight Rebate Program
- Amending the amount of funding for the Energy Efficient Streetlight Pilot Program to \$54,000
- Adding the Retrofit to Public Works Yard Lighting at \$100,000
- Adding the Retrofit of the Parks and Recreation Score Board at \$80,000

The funds for these projects are waiting for approval by the State and, once approved, items will be ordered and retrofits made. An extension was given by the State to expend funds by September 30, 2012.

G. Lighting Stakeholders Group Update

Mr. Godefroy reported the stakeholders recommendations will be presented to City Council on August 6, 2012. A report on the presentation will be given at the September 6, 2012 EAC meeting. Mr. Godefroy also commented if the changes were approved by City Council, they would go through further processing to be included in the Manual of Standard Designs. This would require additional approval by Planning and Zoning.

Mr. Holley asked what role the new LED lighting on Arlington Boulevard had in decisions made by the stakeholders group. Mr. Godefroy stated the lights were determined to be effective but did not provide a monetary return the City was anticipating.

8. OTHER– FYI

A. Recycling Report

B. UST Report

9. **PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS** – The following items are proposed for the September 6, 2012 meeting:
 - A. **Tree Preservation Presentation to City Council Update**
 - B. **EAC Grant Program Discussion**
 - C. **GTV – PSA – October, November, December**
 - D. **GCPP Update**
 - E. **EECBG Update**
 - F. **Sustainability Plan Review**
 - G. **Brochure for Plastic Waste**
 - H. **Lighting Standards Council Update**

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