

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
January 5, 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. Ms. Laura Williamson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. The following attended the meeting:

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Mr. Jay Holley	Mr. Wayne Caldwell
Mr. Owen Burney	Mr. Tim Kelley
Mr. Hugh Cox	Ms. Laura Williamson
Mr. Scott Anderson	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Kinsey Holton, City of Greenville	Mr. Wes Anderson, City of Greenville
Ms. Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville	Ms. Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville
Mr. Kevin Heifferon, City of Greenville	Mr. Niki Jones, City of Greenville
Mr. Dave Barham, Citizen of Greenville	

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Holton requested three items to be added to the agenda as follows: 1) Third Street diesel spill/dumping; 2) Potential Urban Water Small Grant RFP; and 3) Lighting Standards Stakeholder Group.

4. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 5, 2011 MINUTES

Mr. Holley requested information regarding the Town Creek be corrected to reflect the level of contaminates meet current standards instead of levels of surface waters. A motion was made by Mr. Cox to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burney and passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Elections

Mr. Caldwell made a motion to nominate Mr. Jay Holley as Chairperson. Mr. Cox seconded the motion. Mr. Holley accepted the nomination. The motion to elect Mr. Holley as Chairperson passed unanimously.

Mr. Cox made a motion to nominate Mr. Scott Anderson as Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Holley seconded the motion. Mr. Scott Anderson accepted the nomination. The motion to elect Mr. Scott Anderson as Vice-Chairperson passed unanimously.

B. Announcements

- Ms. Williamson announced a Solar House Decathlon would be held on January 10, 2012 at 6:00pm. Mr. Cox added that GCPP would meet after the presentation at the Technology Systems Conference Room.
- Ms. Kirby informed the group that on Wednesday, December 28, 2011, the City of Greenville was notified there was a smell of diesel fuel at Town Commons. Fire/Rescue crews were dispatched to the scene to secure issues regarding the potential of fire. Inspectors for the City traced the spill to an outfall at First Street Place Apartments and traced the spill up the system to a catch basin at Third Street. The National Response Center with EPA was notified and representatives were dispatched from Region Four to assist with clean up efforts. The total amount of contaminated fluid was estimated at 700 gallons including fuel and water with approximately 500 being estimated as fuel.

Ms. Kirby also informed the group of a suspected dump on Allen Road. An individual was noticed dumping a heating tank on private property. When confronted, the individual claimed to be dumping water from the tank; however there was residual damage from contaminated fluid. Due to the dump location being outside of the City limits, no action can be taken by the City; however, NCDENR is investigating this and will take necessary actions.

Ms. Kirby also reported the information on the spill and actions being taken will be posted on the EPA's website and this information will be forwarded to EAC members.

- Ms. Williamson stated there was a petition being circulated regarding the opposition of the Martin Marietta Mine in Beaufort County due to the lack of investigation of the effects of the mine to the environment in that area. Mr. Caldwell commented that he researched an article on the mine in the Beaufort Observer and found that no permits have been issued except for test digging of wells. Mr. Kelley interjected he felt the petition was to oppose the circumvention of the legal requirements of permitting. Mr. Holley added that he felt EAC should not be addressing this issue as a group due to the plant not affecting the City of Greenville or its water supply. Ms. Williamson agreed with Mr. Holley; however, encouraged individuals to sign the petition if they felt led to do so.
- Ms. Williamson stated the City Clerk's office received a call regarding the recycling of compact fluorescents. Ms. Williamson asked if anyone was aware of a place to recycle these and Mr. Wes Anderson responded City staff was researching the matter.

C. Community Tree Day Event

Mr. Kevin Heifferon presented the group with a flyer on Community Tree Day event. The event will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2012 from 9am to 12pm beginning at the Moyewood Cultural and Recreation Center. The goal is to plant approximately 75 trees in the Moyewood area.

Mr. Heifferon also presented the group with information on a Public Meeting for Tree Preservation on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 from 6pm to 8pm at Sheppard Memorial Library. Mr. Heifferon explained in 2007, a tree preservation ordinance was placed into effect. In November 2010, City Council directed City staff to revisit tree preservation ordinance of the City of Greenville. A tree preservation discussion group was established and has been meeting monthly since March 2011 and has developed recommendations to revise the current ordinance. The meeting being held on January 10, 2012, will allow the public to give input on the recommendations being made and all input will be reported to City Council. Mr. Heifferon stated he anticipates all input will be presented to City Council in August 2012.

D. Redevelopment Commission Update

Mr. Niki Jones was present to give an update on Redevelopment Commission projects. He informed the group on the following projects:

- Small Business Incubator Project – This project is the development of a business incubator in West Greenville which would support the creation and development of small, creative businesses in diverse industries by providing office space/amenities and technical assistance to fledgling companies and entrepreneurs. The feasibility study is scheduled to be completed in April/May 2012. A steering committee has been established and is tasked with building the incubator if the feasibility study is favorable.
- West Fifth Streetscape Phase II – The Redevelopment Commission and Greenville City Council have selected a segment of West Fifth Street running from Cadillac Street to Tyson Street, as a second phase of streetscape design and construction in West Greenville. A key feature of this project will be the realignment of West 14th Street and Tyson Street at their intersection with West Fifth Street. A public input meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2012 at the Intergenerational Center.
- Merchant's Alley – Merchant's Alley is a pedestrian corridor mid-block between West Fifth and West Fourth Streets in Greenville's Central Business District. During the past decade, the walking surface of the alley has been in a state of near constant disrepair, as improvement projects to adjoining buildings have required cuts to the surface in order to install and/or repair underground utilities. Recent lighting studies completed by the City of Greenville and Greenville Utilities staff have also highlighted a need for updated lighting in the alley. Through a design contract authorized during the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year, the Redevelopment Commission will prepare construction plans that will lead to the installation of a removable paver system in the alley, as well as installation of appropriate lighting and limited ornamental vegetation.
- Uptown Theater Revitalization – This project is the revitalization of the theater located on Fifth Street. Current renovations include the fly-away and protecting the exterior and interior from water damage created by leaks. A fund raising campaign has also begun.

- Wayfinding Project – Greenville’s wayfinding sign system is designed to direct motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians to and from a variety of destinations within the City of Greenville. Additionally, the system is intended to raise the City’s visual profile through the use of a unified sign system that incorporates the City’s adopted color schemes. The system is made up of a total of 162 signs including vehicular directional, parking, and pedestrian signs. To date, 85 signs have been installed and the City will add signs to the system as road systems change and new destinations come on line.
- Evans Street Gateway Project – This project will revitalize Evans Street from 10th Street to Reade Circle. The initial planning phase is underway and plans are to install a turn lane and bicycle lanes.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Goals & Objectives

This topic was combined with the Council Presentation item as Goals were being presented to City Council at the January 9, 2012 City Council meeting.

B. Council Presentation

Ms. Williamson reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that will be given to City Council on January 9, 2012. Minor revisions were made and the final presentation will be available with the January 5, 2012 minutes.

C. GTV – PSA for January, February, March

Mr. Cox has presented Mr. Holton with recommendations for use on GTV. Mr. Holton will incorporate these announcements for presentation.

D. EECBG Update

Mr. Wes Anderson informed the group that City Council, at its January 9, 2012 meeting, will review a contract for the third party consultant. Once this contract is awarded, an Investment Grade Audit will be completed.

E. GCPP Update

Mr. Cox presented the group with a handout update of the December 13, 2011 meeting. This handout will be available with the January 5, 2012 minutes.

F. Grant Program – Update on Presentations

Ms. Williamson reported she gave a presentation to Elmhurst and Epps. The two groups may work on a project together.

Ms. Williamson also informed the group that Mr. Wes Anderson received an email from a 4H group at Wahl-Coates Elementary that was interested in applying for the grant. The issue raised from the group is the PTA group did not want to manage the administration of the funds. The group has the fiscal structure in place to manage the funds and requested EAC to allow them to apply. Ms. Williamson will contact the group and obtain more details and bring the information back to the February 2nd meeting.

G. Lighting Standards Stakeholders Group

Mr. Holton presented the group with a letter from Scott Godefroy regarding a stakeholders group to review the draft street lighting standards for the City. The letter asked for an EAC commission member to be a representative on this group with the understanding the stakeholder group will meet each month for an estimated 6 to 9 month period. Mr. Holton asked that EAC commit to providing a member on the stakeholder group and will ask for a volunteer at the February 2nd meeting.

H. Urban Water Small Grant

Mr. Holton informed the group that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soliciting proposals for a small urban waters grant to fund projects that will contribute to improved water quality in urban areas. Mr. Holton suggested this was a great opportunity for EAC and City staff to pursue such a grant to take the next step in the efforts to address the Town Creek fuel contamination issues by possibly procuring an industrial hygienist to assess the site to set the stage for potential remediation measures.

Mr. Holton asked if this was a project EAC members would be interested in assisting with technical details in writing the grant to meet the first deadline of questions being presented by January 16, 2012 and proposals being received by January 23, 2012. Ms. Williamson and Mr. Holley agreed to assist in reviewing information.

8. OTHER– FYI

A. Recycling Report

B. UST Report

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – The following items are proposed for the February 2, 2012 meeting:

A. EAC Grant Program – Presentation Decision

B. FROGGS Update

C. Goals Update from City Council presentation

D. Action Items for Plastic Waste

E. GCPP Update

F. EECBG Update

G. Light Standards Stakeholders Group

10. Adjournment –There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.