

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
June 7, 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. 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. Hugh Cox

Dr. Michael Behm
Dr. Robert Chin
Mrs. Laura Williamson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kinsey Holton, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Michael Abramowitz, Daily Reflector
Marian Booth, Pitt County Cooperative Services
Patricia Gray Cahoon, Pitt County Cooperative Services, 4-H
Avery Clifford, WC Explorers
Allison Moran-Wasklewicz, WC Explorers
Keenan Wasklewicz, WC Explorers
Chena Cayton, Principal Wahl-Coates Elementary School

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

The Sustainability Plan discussion was removed from the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MAY 3, 2012 MINUTES

Mr. Cox made a motion to accept the May 3, 2012 minutes as presented. A second was made by Ms. Williamson and the motion passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Announcements

There were no announcements.

B. EAC Grant Program - Announcement

Mr. Anderson gave a brief explanation of the details of the inaugural EAC Grant Program. Mr. Anderson stated the grant's primary focus for this year was school groups to concentrate on stormwater activities.

The recipient of the award was Wahl-Coates Elementary 4-H Explorers Science Club. Ms. Allison Moran-Wasklewicz detailed the grant application and explained the group would be doing monthly water quality testing of the Greens Mill Run which is the closest body of water in proximity to the school. Ms. Moran-Wasklewicz elaborated on the plans to establish benchmarks for the beginning of the project, education of the entire school population and parents, and presentations that will be given throughout the school year. Ms. Moran-Wasklewicz indicated that Heather Jacobs Deck, Pamlico-Tar River keeper, will also be involved in the project.

C. Sustainability Plan

This discussion was removed from the agenda.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. EAC Grant Program – Subcommittee

Ms. Anderson asked for those interested in serving on a subcommittee to determine funding and target audience for the upcoming grant process. Ms. Williamson commented she felt if the grant target audience and funding remained the same, the timeline for the grant application process may need to be revised to accommodate the time frame of a school year which runs from August to June.

Ms. Williamson asked if the funding would be available from City Stormwater funds for the upcoming grant cycle. Mr. Holton responded that he believed the funds for the grant recently awarded were from the City's FY12-13 and he would investigate to see if funding for the upcoming grant process would be available in the same fiscal year. Ms. Williamson also asked Mr. Holton if it were in the best interest of the City for funding an additional stormwater project. Mr. Holton stated he felt it would be beneficial to apply grant funding for stormwater projects.

Mr. Cox made a motion to have Ms. Williamson revise the grant application process to "fast track" for school groups and update the grant application and information to reflect the upcoming grant process if funding is approved. The motion was seconded by Dr. Behm and passed unanimously.

B. Bylaws Update

Mr. Holton presented the group with information obtained by City Attorney Dave Holec regarding the meeting of special committees of EAC members and open meeting requirements of those committees. It was determined that any committee consisting of two or more EAC members and exercises legislative, policy making, quasi-judicial, administrative or advisory function must abide by the requirements of the Open Meetings Law.

Mr. Holton also informed the group that EAC has the authority to amend its bylaws without City Council approval. However, the bylaws must conform with the Articles relating to the Environmental Advisory Commission and all other laws and provisions as prescribed by City Council relating to Commissions.

Mr. Holton presented the group with a handout on Major Policy and Planning Issues. This handout was in response to the process of reviewing Environmental Impact

Statements (EIS). Mr. Anderson asked when EAC would be required to review an EIS and who notifies EAC of this process. Mr. Holton will contact Community Development and/or the City Manager's office to determine if EAC should be reviewing the EIS for projects presented to the City. Mr. Holton will report the information at the August 2, 2012 meeting.

Mr. Holton also noted the Bylaws should be amended to reflect EAC does not meet in month of July. A motion was made by Ms. Williamson to amend the bylaws to reflect this addition. A second was made by Dr. Chin. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Brochure for Plastic Waste

Mr. Holton sent an email to Dr. Chin and Dr. Behm an email with background information on the plastic brochure being developed by EAC. Dr. Chin asked for more detailed information regarding the target audience, desired impact on the target audience, and technical aspects of the brochure. Ms. Williamson commented the target audience had not specifically been identified. However, she expounded on additional details of the brochure and explained that mass media such as internet and printed publications could target a general public audience but noted that measurable goals may be difficult to ascertain.

Dr. Chin asked if it would be beneficial to change the focus of the brochure from information on plastic waste to recycling plastics. Mr. Holton stated the City of Greenville's Recycling Coordinator supplied educational information on plastic recycling and explained the initial discussion for the plastic waste brochure was to focus on the impact of plastics in the environment. Dr. Chin commented he felt a measurable goal for the brochure should be recordable for any information provided and asked if it would be feasible to post the brochure to the City's website and monitor the number of visits to the site.

Ms. Williamson offered that the brochure did not lack for material for publication, but the lack of commitment to completing the brochure was an issue. Dr. Chin offered to begin working on the brochure and will bring back information at the August meeting.

Mr. Cox made a motion to table further discussion of this topic to the August 2, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Chin and the motion passed unanimously.

D. GCPP – Discussion of Future

Mr. Anderson reminded the group to forward information for new members to Mr. Cox as quickly as possible. GCPP's next scheduled meeting will be held in August 2012. Mr. Cox commented that he felt GCPP was a viable subcommittee and would like to see the group continue to assist EAC with goals and objectives as presented to City Council and other tasks as requested by EAC.

Ms. Williamson made a motion to table discussion on this topic to the August 2, 2012 meeting. Dr. Chin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. EECBG Update

Mr. Godefroy explained the grant was initially divided into nine various categories. Due to lack of participation and interest in some categories, modifications have been made to

delete some programs and incorporate new programs. Modifications include funding the additional cost of the Energy Savings Performance Contract, upgrading the existing are a lights and wall packs for the Public Works Facility, Garner Training Facility and Hooker Road warehouse, and Boyd Lee Recreation Center to LED, establish a monitoring system that will enable the City to use light systems more efficiently at the Recreation and Parks athletic field, and install eight (8) LED scoreboards. In addition, the homeowners' energy efficiency revolving loan program has been proposed for amendment to revise the loan process from homeowners to commercial due to lack of participation from homeowners. Mr. Godefroy explained the modifications were being presented to City Council for approval, and if approved, would result in a utilization of \$475,000 of funds.

F. Lighting Stakeholders Group Update

Ms. Williamson reported that Tim Corley and Chris Kelly with the City of Greenville gave a presentation on recommendations for street lighting along roads/streets. The recommendations were in line with expectations of Greenville Utilities; however, Ms. Williamson commented that she expressed her desire for energy efficiency in lighting and the City's commitment to installing technology neutral lighting based on the level of service being provided.

8. OTHER– FYI

A. Recycling Report

B. UST Report

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

A. EAC Calendar - Finalize

B. EAC Grant Program – Discuss Call for Proposal

C. Tree Preservation

D. FROGGS Update

E. Bylaws Update –EIS Review

F. Brochure for Plastic Waste

G. GCPP – Discussion of Future

H. EECBG Update

I. Lighting Stakeholders Group Update

J. Sustainability Plan

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