

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
December 6, 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. Owen Burney
Mr. Hugh Cox

Dr. Michael Behm
Dr. Robert Chin
Mr. Jay Holley

OTHERS PRESENT:

Council Member Marion Blackburn
Scott Godefroy, City of Greenville
Kinsey Holton, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Ethan Brogden, ECU
Bryn Terry, ECU
Stephen Herendeen, ECU
Max Downey, ECU

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 4, 2012 MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Chin to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Behm and passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Holley recognized students visiting from East Carolina University. There were no public comments.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Announcements

- Mr. Holley informed the group of his decision to resign from EAC effective with his April 2013 second term renewal. Council Member Blackburn commended Mr. Holley on his work with the Town Creek issue and thanked him for his work on EAC.

B. Goals & Objectives – Finalize

Mr. Holley began the discussion by referencing an email forwarded to members regarding last year's goals and objectives. This email detailed the goals and objectives presented to City Council and also detailed the previous year's points of pride as well.

Dr. Behm asked if the goals set by EAC were measurable goals. Mr. Holley commented the history of the goal making process was to achieve a level of measurable goals such as the recycling report and the increase in recycling and to also focus on areas of concern such as plastics in the environment with the final product being a brochure. Dr. Chin commented he believed any goal set by EAC should be measurable.

Council Member Blackburn stated she would like to see EAC have a higher profile with City Council in the decision making process on environmental issues. Mr. Holley commented he felt the public comment period time at City Council may be an opportune time for members to use this as a voice for EAC.

Dr. Behm questioned the possibility of working with other commissions in providing comments on their projects that involve an environmental component. Mr. Holley stated EAC does work with other commissions and committees by receiving reports from other commissions and serving on committees such as the Tree Preservation Committee and the Lighting Standard Committee. Mr. Cox emphasized the role EAC had in the committees mentioned and also recalled the no idling signs installed at schools as a result of work by GCPP commission members. Mr. Cox stated he felt one goal to consider would be having no idling signs installed at City parks.

Dr. Chin asked if the parking deck issue would be a project for EAC to consider offering input on environmental issues to City Council. Mr. Holley responded this would be a good opportunity for EAC to be represented at a City Council meeting and have public comments by members. Council Member Blackburn suggested EAC should establish comments regarding the Intermodal Transportation Center as well.

After discussion, the goals and objectives established for the upcoming year will be:

- To publish and distribute a plastics brochure
- To publicize and advertise the current Grant Program
- To seek funding sources for future grants
- To participate in the Sustainability planning process
- Engage citizens in environmental responsibility
- Reduce volume of our waste
- Preserve liquid gold (water)

Dr. Behm made a motion to accept the goals as determined. Dr. Chin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Behm also suggested a strategic planning session be considered by EAC. This session would allow members to establish upcoming goals and objectives. This planning will be held during the February 7, 2013 EAC meeting.

The 2020 vision for Greenville goals will remain the same as last year. The points of

pride will be amended as followed:

- Diverse, talented membership
- Development of plastics brochure
- Award of first grant to Wahl-Coates 4-H Club
- Lighting Standards Stakeholders Group representation
- Tree Preservation Committee representation
- Greenville Climate Protection Partnership (GCPP) subcommittee
- ECU Service Learning Partnership
- Working relationship with Public Works and other civic groups
- Improved recycling

C. Council Presentation – Brainstorm

This topic was combined with Item B above. The presentation to be given to City Council will be reviewed and approved at the January 3, 2013 meeting.

D. EAC Grant Program – 2013 Cycle

Mr. Holley commented on the list of schools provided in the agenda package and stated these schools would be the target audience for the upcoming grant cycle. Dr. Behm asked if a subcommittee would be established to make contact with the schools to promote the grant. Mr. Holley stated the original grant targeted parent/teacher organizations and it was later determined to open the grant to school related clubs. Mr. Holley also suggested the grant be opened further to allow science teachers to apply for the grant as well.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Brochure for Plastic Waste

Mr. Holley directed attention to the amended plastics brochure presented by Ms. Williamson via email. Mr. Holley suggested the word “tap” be added to describe the water on the page titled “What can I do?” Mr. Anderson commented the statement of “cleanest water in the world” needs to be evaluated. Mr. Anderson expressed concern in how this fact was determined.

Mr. Holley also commented that feedback on the brochure reflected a desire for the brochure to be focused more on the environmental aspects of plastics versus the health and safety aspects the brochure has taken. Mr. Holton pointed out the factual components of the brochure need to be addressed. Mr. Holton expressed concern on some statements in the brochure and the fact checking process involved. Mr. Holley suggested more links be added to direct individuals to more detailed information on the center brochure that lists the safety scale of plastic. Mr. Holley also commented the City of Greenville link and Green”er”ville link be added to the brochure.

Mr. Holley suggested removing the information on the right panel and designate the panel to address environmental issues of plastic. Mr. Holley also commented on typographical errors found on the left panel. Mr. Holton will forward all the comments given to Ms. Williamson to be incorporated into the brochure and the changes will be brought back to the January 3, 2013 meeting.

B. GTV – PSA – January, February, March

PSA's for the months of January, February, and March were established as followed:

January – Anti-Idling

February – Grant Program

March – Recycling

C. GCPP – Update

Mr. Cox forwarded the minutes of the November 13, 2012 meeting by email to EAC members for review.

D. ECU Service Learning Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Holton reported the Memorandum of Understanding was forwarded to the City Manger for signature. Once the MOU is signed, it will be on file for future learning projects to be considered by EAC.

8. OTHER– FYI

A. Recycling Report

B. UST/AST Report

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – The following items are proposed for the January 3, 2013 meeting:

A. Elections

B. Council Presentation – Finalize

C. GCPP Update

D. Stormwater Annual Report

E. 2013 EAC Grant Development

F. Strategic Planning Preparation

G. Plastic Brochure

10. Adjournment –There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.