

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
February 5, 2009

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

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Mr. Wayne Caldwell
Ms. Anne Bunnell
Dr. James Kenny
Mr. Hugh Cox

Ms. Jessica Christie
Mr. Durk Tyson
Mr. Owen Burney, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wes Anderson, City of Greenville
Ms. Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Mr. Mark Gillespie, City of Greenville

Ms. Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville
Mr. Calvin Mercer, City Council Member
Mr. Lamarco Morrison, City of Greenville

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 6, 2008 MINUTES

No changes were made to the minutes. Motion was made by Dr. Kenny to accept the minutes as amended and was seconded by Mr. Durk Tyson. The motion passed unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Announcements

Mr. Caldwell reported he, Hugh Cox, and Jim Kenny visited the Bertie County Landfill. He gave a synopsis of what was seen and how the landfill operated.

Mr. Caldwell announced the Climate Protection Plan was presented at the Town and Gown session. He felt there was some interest from the group and commented Mayor Dunn commended GCPP for its goals being centered on the health and cost aspects of climate protection. Dr. Kenny observed that each group gave a short presentation on their particular objectives; however they did not interact with one another. Mr. Anderson stated the session was held as an informative meeting to allow each group to be aware of what the others were doing.

Mr. Caldwell reported on the meeting held by the Department of Air Quality for the Non-Attainment of Pitt County. He stated if Pitt County did nothing, we should be in compliance to the current standard by 2012. Mr. Anderson stated the most immediate affect of coming back into attainment would be on the business end of the non-attainment issue; however the transportation side would still have to be in conformity with updated standards for a period of 20 years as if they were in non-attainment status.

Mr. Caldwell also stated he was concerned with the possibility of the county creating non-attainment areas based on the 1000 population density per one (1) square mile factor due to the fact that Greenville would be the most prominently affected.

B. Greenway Master Plan Interconnectivity

Mr. Lamarco Morrison presented the group with a section of the Park Master Plan detailing public surveys done for the City of Greenville in regards to how citizens utilize parks and their visions for the future. This information was obtained through telephone surveys and questionnaires.

Mark Gillespie was present to discuss the City of Greenville's priority for Greenway Projects. The first priority mentioned was the Green Mill Run Corridor. The project will involve funding to re-employ a consultant to consider alternative routes near the stream to avoid extensive and costly board walks. The project attempts to provide a viable route near the stream corridor.

The second priority discussed was to employ a consultant to evaluate the corridors along the Tar River with the ultimate goal of linking the soon to be constructed South Tar River Greenway. This creates a highly viable alternative transportation corridor linked to key residential areas, major employers, and encourages people to more actively utilize the river for recreational purposes.

C. ECU Efforts on Energy Efficiency for Low Income Housing

Ms. Bunnell gave an update to the group on her research into energy efficiency for low incoming housing. Ms. Bunnell presented the group with information on a national organization called Rebuild Together. Rebuild Together attempts to work with "green dollars" whenever possible to rebuild homes and replace faulty appliances with energy efficient models. Ms. Bunnell volunteered to research the project more and bring the information to the March 5, 2009 meeting.

D. Plastic Bottle Discussion

Dr. Kenny presented the group with a report on plastics. The report detailed information on public perception, plastic chemicals, origins of BPA's, "state of the art" potential human harmful effects, resources of BPA's, classes of plastics [classes] 1-7, and remedies.

E. NC Eastern Region Green Certification

Mr. Caldwell previously emailed the group an application regarding the Eastern Region Green Certification. The application allows businesses which are operating green to become certified as green through the Eastern Region Certification process. Mr. Caldwell asked the group to look at the form and return any comments to him.

F. Comments from City Council Strategy Session

Mr. Anderson provided information on the City Council Strategy Session. He reported this strategy session was to add or amend objectives already adopted. New or adopted items included educate and assist cutting energy usage in housing, determining if there is a minimum energy code for housing, create a community climate protection plan, and have EAC work with ECU to move environmental issues along.

G. EAC – Keep Greenville Beautiful Inc Recycling Subcommittee Update

Mr. Anderson reported to the group that the Keep Greenville Beautiful Inc Recycling Subcommittee would like to merge recycling, vegetation, and bulky trash into a biweekly service. There would be cost incentives to citizens for recycling and the process would be tested and presented to City Council.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recycling Content Purchasing Policy Examples

Mr. Caldwell asked for examples on Recycling Purchasing Policy. Mr. Caldwell and Ms. Bunnell presented copies. It was determined Mr. Caldwell would take the copies and proceed with a draft example for the City of Greenville.

B. Environmental Awareness Award Update

Ms. Kirby passed out a list of current nominations and asked the group to provide any further nominations before the March meeting.

C. GCPP Update/Report

Mr. Caldwell reported the group is looking into producing a brochure to communicate opportunities for energy cost reduction, health improvements, and climate protection. Steve Hawley will be working with GCPP to initiate this brochure.

7. Other – FYI - The Recycling Report was presented for information only.

8. Proposed Agenda Items – The following items are proposed for the March 5, 2009 meeting:

A. Environmental Awareness Award Nominations Discussion

B. GCPP Update/Report

C. Citywide Clean-Up Information

D. Rebuilding Together Discussion

E. Plastics Discussion

F. Recycling Content Purchasing Policy Draft Examples

9. Adjournment –There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.