

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
October 1, 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
Dr. James Kenny
Mr. Hugh Cox
Mr. Steve Janowski

Ms. Jessica Christie
Mr. Owen Burney, Jr.
Ms. Anne Bunnell

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wes Anderson, City of Greenville Ms. Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Mr. Tom Wisemiller, City of Greenville

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 4, 2009 MINUTES

No corrections were made to the minutes. A motion was made by Ms. Bunnell to accept the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Burney. The motion passed unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Announcements

Mr. Caldwell stated Emerald Isle has passed an ordinance making recycling mandatory.

Mr. Caldwell presented information on an article from the Parade magazine. The city (which was not Greenville) was listed as the "Bicycle City" and the mayor (at 75 years of age) rode his bicycle wherever possible.

Ms. Bunnell announced that the head of recycling programs at ECU sent a memo to all ECU employees and students in reference to the mandatory recycling of bottles.

Ms. Bunnell voiced a concern in regards to the possibility of signage to reduce idling at River Park North.

Ms. Bunnell presented an article discussing roundabouts. The article addressed the various ways to make a community greener by utilizing roundabouts.

B. Community Development – Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mr. Tom Wisemiller presented a PowerPoint Presentation on the City's update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The City is forming an advisory committee comprised of various individuals to review and make general updates to the current plan. The advisory committee would meet approximately six times with an end result being a current Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The group presented to Mr. Wisemiller the potential for a higher likelihood of a spill of chemicals from a train accident versus natural disasters. Mr. Wisemiller acknowledged the concern and suggested the topic be presented to the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee for discussion.

Ms. Christie volunteered to sit on the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee with Ms. Bunnell as a backup if Ms. Christie was unavailable. Mr. Caldwell volunteered to fill in if both Ms. Christie and Ms. Bunnell were unavailable for the advisory committee meetings.

C. Hotel Water Conservation

Ms. Christie presented information on various hotels in Greenville regarding water conservation plans. The Hilton has a 5 year sustainability plan that would reduce water consumption by 10%; however the plan would be initialized by each independent franchise. Best Western in Greenville has a policy that requests linen and towel reuse to reduce water usage. The Baymont hotel in Greenville has low flow toilets but has no other plan for water conservation in place.

The question posed is what can the City do to increase water conservation on commercial properties. A suggestion was to create an accreditation program that will give public recognition as an incentive.

Mr. Caldwell requested Ms. Christie present this issue to the Greenville Climate Protection Partnership (GCPP) for further consideration.

D. Recycling – Marketing Plan

Mr. Anderson stated this year's budget allows for \$40,000 in marketing for recycling awareness. Curbside Value Partnership, which is affiliated with Keep America Beautiful and the National Recycling Coalition, was chosen to develop a marketing plan. The first plan presented was considered too "edgy" for the City of Greenville. The second plan did not take into consideration the fact that the City uses trash cans with recycling stickers as opposed to designated recycling containers. A new plan is expected within the next week. A timeline would have the campaign in place by the National Recycling Day in November.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. GCPP Update

Dr. Kenny informed the group that the Green Buildings Tour will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009 beginning at the PCC Campus at the corner of Firetower and Memorial Drive from 10am-3pm. GCPP will have a display on plastic bottles and will distribute the wallet cards with the different plastic products.

Dr. Kenny stated the GCPP Master Plan would be subdivided into other categories such as churches, education at different levels, etc. Educational materials for children were also discussed.

Dr. Kenny read excerpts from an article in Scientific America regarding nuclear energy. He gave a website of www.scim.com for more information on the various topics.

B. EECBG Update/Report

The last Energy Conservation Strategy steering committee meeting finalized the programs that would be recommended to City Council. These programs still have to be analyzed for costs and impacts. One program addresses new government facilities, will match the requirements in state law that governs ECU facilities. The City will use this program to lead by example and to use the data and results from this program to provide cost savings information to commercial facility owners to help convince them to implement energy improvements to their buildings. The program for existing commercial facilities would concentrate on incentives for replacing lighting and HVAC systems.

The second program addresses residential facilities and for new construction will be based on Greenville Utilities (GUC) E300 program. The intent is to use this program to provide rebates on new homes to purchasers (by means of a rebate check) and builders (by means of return of inspection and permits fees) that meet a certain level in the E-300 program. The house would be certified to E300 standards by GUC staff. Owners of existing homes would be able to access a revolving loan programs for replacement/upgrading of HVAC systems.

Plans for mass transit transportation were too long term for the grant terms. Individual incentives could possibly include rebates on taxes for purchases of compact hybrid vehicles or better parking areas and time limits in the downtown area.

7. OTHER– FYI

A. Recycling Report

B. UST Report

C. Keep Greenville Utilities Beautiful Report

8. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – The following items are proposed for the November 5, 2009 meeting:

A. Goals & Objectives

B. Recycling Options beyond education – Continued marketing plan

C. Energy – Education Plan

D. GCPP Update

E. EECGB Update

9. Adjournment –There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.