

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
September 3, 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

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Wes Anderson, City of Greenville Ms. Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Ms. Melissa Lockamy, Town of Winterville Ms. Michelle Covey, Visitor
Mr. Mark Gillespie, City of Greenville

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Traffic Light discussion by Dr. Kenny was added as old business.

4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 4, 2009 MINUTES

A correction was made to change the date of the minutes from April 2, 2009 to June 4, 2009. It was also noted that small neck bottles must be recycled as compared to discussion that they were not recyclable. A motion was made by Dr. Kenny to accept the minutes as amended and was seconded by Mr. Burney. The motion passed unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Announcements

Mr. Caldwell asked the group the best solution to prevent a no quorum meeting as happened at the August meeting. Mr. Cox volunteered to have his office send emails and/or call all members of EAC the day before the meeting. Everyone agreed to this solution.

Mr. Caldwell announced legislative action on bills regarding revolving loans for energy conservation, the transportation bill for Raleigh that was signed into law, and the Jordan Lake cleanup law.

Mr. Caldwell commented that Electricities has a program in the western part of the state that is sponsoring/allowing grants to commercial operations to make energy efficiency improvements for homes to put in more efficient HVAC. The local utilities for eastern North Carolina does not have this plan.

Lisa Kirby asked the group for one volunteer from EAC to join a committee with Community Development to revise the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. A speaker will be present at the next EAC meeting for comments and questions.

Ms. Jessica Christie passed around articles relating to trees.

B. FROGGS Update

Ms. Melissa Lockamy was present to give the FROGGS Update. Some objectives accomplished by FROGGS and needs are as follows:

- FROGGS requested EAC provide ideas for audiences for presentation of the FROGGS program. The suggestion was made to use the list compiled for the Environmental Awareness Awards.
- Local campaign is set to raise funds to promote the South Tar River Greenway, Fork Swamp Greenway and other projects.
- FROGGS future plans include securing funds for Evans/Old Tar Road improvements (e.g. sidewalks, bike paths), and to access additional corridors in areas for future development of greenways.

C. Recreation and Parks – Neighborhood Parks and Open Spaces

Mr. Mark Gillespie was present to discuss the Parks Master Plan. This is a strategic and broad view of how Greenville compares to other municipalities of similar size and populations. Greenville is going a step further and taking a tactical look at what the plan means on a capital needs basis for individual parks to anticipate needs for each park. This includes existing parks and gaps in the system where communities are not being served and the deficiencies in various areas. Mr. Gillespie passed out a handout with areas that are underserved or unserved by parks areas and specific recommendations and plans for those various areas.

Mr. Caldwell commented that City Council goals and objectives which triggered this plan were to develop a strategy for neighborhood parks and open areas. Mr. Caldwell also commented on the Evans Park area and the opportunity to install playground equipment. Mr. Gillespie stated the various concerns for installing the equipment due to other activities within the park area. Mr. Caldwell commented he felt the parks are driven for athletics as compared to being designed for neighborhoods.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Finalize EAC Calendar

The calendar was finalized with no revisions made.

B. Finalize Environmental Awareness Award Process

The noted change to the Environmental Awareness Award process was to add and amend the “Honorable Mention” category to allow those to be recognized as deemed appropriate in the various categories.

C. GCPP Update/Report

The PowerPoint presentations for Plastic Water Bottles and GCPP are being finalized. These presentations will be used at various functions where GCPP will be set up for public display. The GCPP master plan was visited and will be revisited on a six month basis.

D. Traffic Lights

Dr. Kenny presented an American Automobile Association report on traffic lights that states areas can maximize traffic flow, which in turn reduces fuel consumption and emissions. The article also states that traffic lights could operate more efficiently by adjusting timing, coordinating at adjacent signals, or updating equipment. Dr. Kenny asked if the City of Greenville was in the position of having our signals updated, synchronized, and if we had full staff on board to accomplish these goals. Mr. Anderson answered Dr. Kenny and confirmed the City is fully staffed and the lights are coordinated for the best synchronization possible.

E. EECBG

The initial Energy Conservation Strategy was approved by the USDOE. A meeting was held with City Council and also with Tony Cannon (GUC). There were no major concerns with City Council. The concern with GUC revolves around hiring more Energy Services personnel and the lack of continued funding beyond EECBG monies. Beginning focus will be on government aspects of buildings to set us up as examples and then offer incentives for private and commercial entities to become more energy efficient with programs such as E300, revolving loan programs for appliances, and residential weatherization. LED lighting ideas, and ideas for promoting the purchase of energy efficient vehicles are being thought through also.

The city has also talked with contractors that specialize in energy savings performance contracts. This program would allow the city to fix up buildings from monies borrowed from the contractor or a bank to reduce energy costs and the payments would be made from the energy savings. This would be utilized to set an example for residential and commercial citizens.

F. Multi-family Recycling Update/Report

Construction of recycling centers at multi-family locations will be required of all new buildings within the City limits of Greenville. Two options for existing buildings will be to have recycling centers built within a two (2) year or a five (5) year plan. The monies would be collected by adding a construction fee to each multi-family utility bill. The two options will be developed more and presented to City Council for further consideration.

7. OTHER– FYI

A. Recycling Report

Two reports were passed out. One report contained household use only and the second was a report for household and City Government.

B. UST Report

Dr. Kenny asked about the “Corrective Actions Required” notation. Mrs. Kirby explained the “Corrective Action Required” is not a city requirement but is regulated by the state.

Discussion ensued regarding the responsibilities of the owner and the state in connection with contamination cleanup, deed restrictions, and funding for cleanup on properties that have notations that require corrective action, cleanup, or other actions as noted.

Mr. Caldwell volunteered to make contact with the NC-UST section in Washington and request someone come speak or provide information on the process.

- 8. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS** – The following items are proposed for the October 1, 2009 meeting:
- A. Hotel Water Conservation**
 - B. Recycling – Education Plan**
 - C. Keep Greenville Beautiful Update**
 - D. GCPP Update**
 - E. EECGB Update**
 - F. Community Development – Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**
- 9. Adjournment** –There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.