

# ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

May 7, 2015

## CALL TO ORDER

Members of the Environmental Advisory Commission met on the above date at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Mr. James Woodley, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. The following attended the meeting:

### 1. ROLL CALL

#### MEMBERS:

David Ames  
David Kimmel  
James Woodley

Emilie Kane  
Ernest Larkin

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

Council Member Marion Blackburn  
Amanda Boone, City of Greenville  
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville  
Jon Weaver, Citizen of Greenville  
Harry Stubbs, FROGGS

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Dr. Kane asked to add a discussion on the No Idling Resolution be added to the agenda Mr. Woodley asked to add an update on the Ridgewood Elementary Science Club planting day A motion was made by Dr. Kimmel and seconded by Dr. Ames. The motion passed unanimously.

### 4. APPROVAL OF APRIL 2, 2015 MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Kimmel to approve the April 2, 2015 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kane and passed unanimously.

### 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Boone welcomed Dr. Ernest Larkin to the meeting as the newest EAC member.
- Ms. Boone asked each member respond to the R.S.V.P. request for the June 4, 2015 EAC Grant Award Ceremony.

### 6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

### 7. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. FROGGS Update

Mr. Harry Stubbs was present to give an update on FROGGS activities. Mr. Stubbs reported new informational signs had been installed along the Tar River. The first sign is related to Native American heritage and the second is related to water quality in the Tar River. Mr. Stubbs also stated the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission was approached by a group of public health graduate students. This group would like to put a plan together showing various walking trails within the City and to potentially be included on the Bicycle and Pedestrian map.

## **B. Solar Presentation**

Mr. Jon Weaver, a locate solar panel installer gave a presentation on Solar power. The presentation is available with the May 7, 2015 meeting minutes. The presentation gave information on various types of solar options as well as the economics of solar power.

Dr. Kane questioned net metering and asked if a net metering policy was a definite option with Greenville Utilities Commission (GUC) in the future. Mr. Weaver answered net metering was being considered and would be available to report back to EAC if this option was adopted by GUC. Dr. Ames asked how the City of Greenville could support growth of solar energy. Mr. Weaver stated incentives such as encouraging GUC to implement net metering and/or paying more per kilowatt hour for energy generated would help to expand solar energy. Mr. Weaver also stated a viable option for the City of Greenville to support growth would be to promote solar energy options.

## **C. Neighborhood Advisory Commission Update**

Dr. Ames reported he reviewed the January 2015 and February 2015 meeting minutes and stated the group was working on a neighborhood symposium and neighborhood meetings. Dr. Ames stated he felt this could be an opportunity for EAC to coordinate a state of the environment symposium with other commissions.

## **D. Planning and Zoning Commission Update**

Mr. Woodley reported the planning and zoning commission had a request to rezone a property and the request was denied by the Commission. Mr. Woodley stated the rezoning would affect the Greens Mill Run Greenway as well as floodplain restrictions and EAC should be interested in these types of scenarios for future environmental impacts.

## **8. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. River Park North Symposium Update**

Mr. Woodley stated the River Park North Symposium was a success and commended the City of Greenville Stormwater staff for their participation. Mr. Woodley also stated the symposium was well attended by adults and students. Dr. Ames reported the Sierra Club also attended and also felt the symposium was well received by all in attendance.

### **B. Ridgewood Elementary Planting Day Update**

Mr. Woodley informed the group he attended the planting day at Ridgewood Elementary School with the Science Club which is the current EAC grant recipient. Mr. Woodley stated the Science Club students did an excellent job in pitching in as a team in planting and commended Ms. Caitlin Brown for her work with the Science Club as the instructor. Mr. Woodley furthered stated the event was recorded and would be presented at the June 4, 2015 award ceremony.

### **C. State of the Environment Discussion**

Mr. Woodley began by directing attention to the handout regarding the State of Environment Forum. Mr. Woodley stated the participants at the River Park North Symposium could be invited to attend the State of the Environment Symposium as presenters.

Mr. Woodley asked members to consider their level of commitment to the development of the symposium. Dr. Kane asked if River Park North has committed to additional symposiums in the future. Ms. Boone stated there were future projects being planned at River Park North focusing on different watersheds. Dr. Kane expressed concern in having multiple activities with the same participants. Ms. Boone stated the State of the Environment symposium could be held as a stand-

alone meeting in the fall of the year or partner with another symposium project during the Spring. Ms. Boone also stated she would like to table further discussion of a State of the Environment symposium to allow for new members to participate in a subcommittee to further developing the event. Dr. Ames asked if the subcommittee would need to consist of only EAC members or if it could include other individuals within the City or ETJ to participate in future planning of the symposium. Council Member Blackburn noted an ad hoc group could be established to include persons in the community to further discussions and plan an event.

Dr. Larkin asked what goal the symposium would accomplish. Mr. Woodley stated the Environmental Survey conducted by Dr. Kimmel reflected a desire by Greenville citizens to have information relating to environmental concerns be available to the public. Mr. Woodley stated he felt the symposium would address this by providing a platform for professionals to present their current methods of supporting environmental objectives and allow individuals the opportunity to potentially participate in the activities identified and raise conscious awareness of environmental issues.

Dr. Kimmel stated previous concerns with the symposium were lack of a budget. Dr. Kimmel felt the verbiage to establish initial contact with other organizations could address the issue of funding and alleviate a burden on EAC to be fiscally responsible for such an event. Mr. Woodley volunteered to initiate contact with the participants of the River Park North symposium to identify potential leads. Ms. Boone stated she would add this item as a topic of further discussion to a future EAC meeting.

#### **D. Plastics Resolution Discussion**

Dr. Ames began by giving a brief history of the desire to establish a Plastics Resolution. The resolution would recommend actions for consideration by Greenville City Council to identify ways to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags and offer incentives for those practices. Council Member Blackburn stated the resolution was an excellent first step in the process of the campaign to raise awareness and further commented local businesses could be contacted in the initial effort. Dr. Ames made a motion for EAC to endorse and finalize the Plastics Resolution. Dr. Larkin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **E. Strategic Plan Update and Discussion**

Mr. Woodley began with a PowerPoint presentation giving a brief description of the Strategic Planning document as presented to EAC members. A copy of the presentation and plan will be available with the May 7, 2015 meeting minutes.

Dr. Kane stated the Strategic Plan was a great comprehensive document providing the framework of the Commission. Dr. Kane asked if the standing document was the final version of the plan. Mr. Woodley commented he has received comments from Public Works staff and would incorporate those suggestions before finalizing the document. Dr. Ames made a motion to adopt the plan with the revisions as the planning document for EAC. Dr. Kimmel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **F. Update on No Idling Resolution Letter of Support from PTPC**

Dr. Kane attended the April 15, 2015 meeting of the Public Transportation and Parking Commission (PTPC) to request a letter of support for EAC's No Idling Resolution. Dr. Kane stated questions were posed by members of PTPC which could also be raised by City Council. Council Member Blackburn informed the group the resolution was being presented to City Council at their May 14, 2015 meeting. Dr. Kenny, the initiator of the resolution, would be in attendance to request support. Council Member Blackburn asked available EAC members to

attend the meeting as well.

**9. OTHER– FYI**

**A. Recycling Report**

**10. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS**

The following items are proposed for the August 6, 2015 meeting:

**A. Discussion of Officers**

**B. Comprehensive Plan Committee Update**

**C. Town Creek Culvert Update**

**D. Watershed Master Plan Update**

**E. State of the Environment Subcommittee Setup**

**F. Plastic Resolution Discussion**

**G. Strategic Plan Update**

**11. Adjournment** –There being no further business to discuss, Dr. Ames made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kane and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.