

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
November 6, 2014

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. Scott Anderson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. The following attended the meeting:

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

David Ames
Michael Behm
Emilie Kane

Scott Anderson
Owen Burney, Jr
James Woodley

OTHERS PRESENT:

James Kenny, Greenville Citizen
Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Amanda Boone, City of Greenville

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

New Business Item C2 was tabled to the December 4, 2014 meeting. Dr. Ames made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burney and passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2, 2014 MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Burney to approve the October 2, 2014 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Behm and passed unanimously.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

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 on the following items:

- FROGGS is working to have two additional informational markers installed on the greenway. The first marker would provide information regarding water quality in the Tar River and funding is being sought for this marker. The second marker will provide information regarding native settlements along the Tar River. Funding has been identified for this marker. Mr. Anderson questioned how much funding was required to furnish one sign. Mr. Stubbs responded one sign cost approximately \$2000.00 each.

- A “friend raiser” was held on August 23, 2014 on the greenway to allow citizens the opportunity to become familiar and get involved with the FROGGS organization and their works along the greenway.
- The “Who’s on the Greenway” event was held on October 18, 2014. Mr. Chris Horrigan with River Park North led the tour.
- A water fountain has been installed on the greenway near the off-leash dog park. FROGGS is working with the City of Greenville to install an additional fountain near Elm Street Park.
- The annual meeting for FROGGS with fund raising, and a “friend raiser” will be held on February 28, 2015 at Bradford Creek.

B. No Idling and GCPP Transportation Plan Discussion

Dr. James Kenny was present to provide information on the No Idling campaign that had been implemented at Wahl-Coates Elementary School approximately 2 ½ years ago. Dr. Kenny reported the campaign was initiated at the school with information being provided to parents, teachers, and students regarding the affects of idling on the population of the school and community. Dr. Kenny informed the group the program is being reinitiated and students will be passing out information and pledge cards to parents to reduce idling at the school.

Dr. Behm asked Dr. Kenny which schools in Pitt County had no-idling signs. Dr. Kenny reported all schools had the no-idling signs. Dr. Behm then asked how the information should be accepted and utilized by EAC. Dr. Kenny stated he felt EAC should endorse the continuation of the no-idling campaign at schools and further the program to include City of Greenville parks and recreation locations along with uptown revitalization projects.

Dr. Kane commended the work that has been completed and suggested that Pitt County be contacted and invited to participate in the campaign as well. Dr. Kenny stated Pitt County has allowed the no-idling signs to be installed at all schools and has also given instructions to schools regarding policies for bus idling.

Mr. Burney made a motion to support an initiative to install no-idling signs at all parks and recreations facilities within the City and in future uptown revitalization efforts by providing a resolution of support that will be forwarded to City Council. A second was made by Dr. Behm. Dr. Kane volunteered to work on drafting the resolution for EAC’s consideration. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Commission Reports

1. Recreation & Parks Commission (RPC)

Mr. Woodley presented the following items that are being considered by Recreation and Parks Commission:

- Tar River Legacy Plan – Will be presented to City Council with funding being an issue. Mr. Woodley recommends EAC to seek representation on the proposed implementation board as well make recommendations for critical habitats and particular species signage and volunteer monitoring sites
- Town Commons’ Master Plan – RPC prioritized items that should be done with allocated funding of \$150k. Mr. Woodley suggests EAC make recommendations for critical habitats and particular species signage and volunteer monitoring sites

- River Park North – Spring 2015 Environmental Symposium is being proposed for May 2015. Mr. Woodley stated he felt the Spring Symposium would be an opportunity to spotlight the EAC Grant program and also commented that Mr. Horrigan with River Park North questioned the possibility of having someone speak on issues regarding water (such as water quality or conservation). Mr. Anderson commented an exhibit could be set up and previous grant recipient presentation videos could be displayed. Dr. Ames suggested contacting Mr. Horrigan and have him speak with EAC regarding possibilities of partnering together.

River Park North is also working on critical habitat identification with a biodiversity study for future development of park properties; developing informational signage; compost demonstration and classes; as well as seeking funding for hay wagon to transport visitors through the park.

2. Community Appearance

This report was tabled to the December 4, 2014 meeting.

3. Greenville Utilities Commission

Dr. Kimmel forwarded a report on the Greenville Utilities Commission which was given by Dr. Behm. Dr. Kimmel recommended the following “take home messages” for EAC:

- Potential new operations center would be an opportunity for a green building discussion
- Discuss water demand and usage, particularly in light of water sales to other towns. Also, inter-basin exchanges could be an area of discussion
- Compressed Natural Gas facility to be operated by GUC could be an opportunity to lessen environmental impact of such a facility

D. 2015 Goals & Objectives

Mr. Anderson began discussion by directing attention to the handout of the 2014 goals. Mr. Anderson asked EAC to determine the upcoming 2015 goals based on goals that have been accomplished and those that could be continued, in addition to adding new goals.

Dr. Behm commented goal number 6 (distribute a plastics brochure) has been completed. Brochures are still available for distribution.

Mr. Anderson commented goal number 5 (incorporate a service learning student from ECU in the pursuit of one 2014 EAC goals) had also been accomplished by utilizing a service learning student to develop educational publications on the City’s Energy Saving Performance Contract, a sustainability initiative started several years ago. This goal could be ongoing as other potential projects may be identified.

It was also determined that goal number 2 (deliberate and intentional engagement with Council and other commissions) is currently in progress by having EAC members report on other commission activities; however, this goal could be furthered by having a more active engagement with City Council.

Goal number 1 (identify and deploy five ways in which to engage citizens in environmental sustainability with funding that supports an environmental sustainability project) was addressed with the Environmental Survey that was conducted with Dr. Kimmel and his colleagues. This

report was utilized by EAC to identify possible future goals for EAC. EAC also participated with a booth at Freeboot Friday, provided feedback on the Tar River Study and distributed the plastics brochure. These were examples given as ways of engagement with citizens; however it was determined that funding sources need to be identified to support an environmental sustainability project.

Goal number 8 (develop a culture of measuring and disseminating the results of EAC's efforts) has been accomplished by completion of goals, particularly goal numbers 1 and 6. This goal can also move forward with additional measurable goals as identified. Mr. Woodley asked if EAC would like to put together a strategic plan. This plan would allow current members to identify the direction and accomplishments of the commission and future members the ability to become informed of past efforts. Mr. Woodley volunteered to work on this plan and submit to EAC for approval.

Goal number 4 (seek ways to preserve our "liquid gold" (water)) has been achieved by the EAC Stormwater Grant. This grant has been used by recipients to identify stormwater runoff and identify ways to utilize the runoff; as well as effects of natural elements to the environment.

Mr. Anderson addressed goal number 7 (develop an inventory of the City's Public Works' environmental sustainability accomplishments/achievements) and asked staff if this had been accomplished. Ms. Kirby stated an assessment has been completed but is not Public Works specific. This report will be provided to EAC members via email. Dr. Ames also commented the City's Cool Cities efforts could be identified as a measurable sustainability accomplishment. Dr. Behm asked if information regarding the Cool Cities efforts could be forwarded to members as well.

Mr. Anderson asked if there were any other goals or objectives members would like to see added to the 2015 list. Mr. Woodley stated he would like to have a State of the Environment event that would gather all environmental experts available. Mr. Woodley stated the event could be further addressed in the strategic plan being developed.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Environmental Survey – Finalize

The final version of the Environmental Survey was presented for approval. Once approved, the report will be added to the City's EAC webpage. It was not determined how the survey would be disseminated with ECU.

Mr. Woodley addressed the possibility of adding a five minute environmental education segment to the EAC agenda and have a topic and speaker identified each month. After further discussion, it was determined this would begin with the February 2015 meeting and Mr. Woodley would contact Mr. Horrigan with River Park North to be the guest speaker for February.

A motion was made by Dr. Behm to approve the Environmental Survey as presented. A second was made by Mr. Woodley and passed unanimously.

B. 2015-2016 Grant Discussion

Mr. Anderson stated EAC had previously discussed expanding the grant target audience to include groups other than schools. Dr. Behm commented he felt the target audience could be expanded; however, felt the grant should be directed to the K-12 as a primary focus. Mr. Anderson commented the target audience could be focused on youth organizations and identified Scouts, 4H

clubs, Boys & Girls clubs, etc. Ms. Kirby stated the group selected must be able to enter into a contract with the City and be accountable for funding. Dr. Kane also commented with the lack of other available sources of funding, the 2015-2016 grant should remain focused on stormwater education.

Mr. Woodley asked how the grant would be marketed. Mr. Anderson stated the grant packages from previous years could be updated to highlight previous recipients and their projects. Ms. Kirby informed the group that the marketing needs to begin in January 2015 to allow time for applications to be submitted by March 2015. Ms. Kirby also stated in previous years, staff forwarded information to schools regarding the grant and EAC members would make follow-up visits with the schools to promote the grant as well. Mr. Woodley asked if the package identified examples of stormwater projects that could be addressed by applicants. Mr. Woodley will work on a keyword inventory to provide examples for applicants.

A motion was made by Dr. Ames to promote the 2015-2016 EAC grant to youth organizations with a focus on stormwater. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burney and passed unanimously.

9. OTHER– FYI

A. Recycling Report

10. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

The following items are proposed for the December 4, 2014 meeting:

A. Council Presentation – Draft

B. Pitt County Recycling Initiatives & City Recycling Information

C. Plastic Bags Presentation

D. 2015 Goals & Objectives – Finalize

E. Commission Reports – Public Transportation and Parking, Planning & Zoning, Neighborhood Advisory, Community Appearance

F. Stormwater Annual Report

G. 2015-2016 EAC Grant Review

11. Adjournment –There being no further business to discuss, Dr. Ames made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Woodley and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.