

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

September 3, 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. Dr. David Kimmel, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. The following attended the meeting:

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

David Ames
David Kimmel

Emilie Kane
Ernest Larkin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Daniel Sokolovic, Love A Sea Turtle
Christopher Horrigan, River Park North
Cheryl Tafoya, City of Greenville
Delbert Bryant, City of Greenville

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Upon the completion of the Pledge of Allegiance, Dr. Kimmel requested a moment of silence to honor Mr. Harry Stubbs, FROGGS representative to EAC.

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MAY 7, 2015 MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Larkin to approve the May 7, 2015 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ames and passed unanimously.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Membership and Officers

Dr. Kimmel stated Council Member Blackburn will present two new potential appointees to City Council at the September 10, 2015 Council meeting. Upon approval, the members should be present at the October 1, 2015 meeting of EAC. Dr. Kimmel suggested postponing the election of officers to the October 1, 2015 meeting as well. Dr. Kane made the motion to table elections and the motion received a second by Dr. Larkin. The motion passed unanimously.

B. 2016 Earth Day Events and Environmental Symposium

Mr. Sokolovic began by giving an update on the Love A Sea Turtle grant project funded by EAC. Mr. Sokolovic stated the Upstream Downstream Camp is complete. A total of approximately 1,900 individuals were served by this camp. Stormwater and water quality testing were some of

the focal points of the camp.

Mr. Sokolovic also reported the Earth Day events will begin on April 16, 2016 at River Park North. Events will also continue through the week of April 18, 2016 with Earth Day being April 22, 2016. Mr. Sokolovic gave a brief overview of the anticipated events of the week. Dr. Kimmel asked what assistance EAC could give to assist with the Earth Day events. Mr. Sokolovic requested assistance from EAC in any manner possible but stated the resources most needed are monetary funds.

Dr. Larkin asked if the State of the Environment symposium discussed at previous meetings could be incorporated into the Earth Day 2016 events. Mrs. Kirby added the intent was to partner with events such as these and present information about the State of the Environment. Dr. Kane stated the formation of a subcommittee had also been discussed to address events that could be supported by EAC. Dr. Kimmel suggested adding the formation of the subcommittee to the October 1, 2015 agenda as more members would be available to service on the committee and determine the best course of action for the Commission in assisting with the Earth Day 2016 at River Park North.

C. Recycling Update Discussion

Mrs. Tafoya, City Recycling Coordinator gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing the City's Recycling Program. This presentation will be available with the September 3, 2015 meeting minutes. Mrs. Tafoya detailed the recycling efforts of the City as well as past initiatives to bring awareness of the need to recycle and increase recycling by citizens.

Mrs. Tafoya also stated a grant had been written in connection with Keep Greenville Beautiful for composting and upon completion of a short education and demonstration session citizens could obtain composting bins from the City.

Dr. Larkin directed attention to the recycling chart as presented monthly to EAC. Dr. Larkin asked what the graph represented. Mrs. Tafoya stated the graph was indicative of the percent of recycling diverted from the total refuse collected in a month. Dr. Larkin also asked if the City had considered mandatory recycling. Mrs. Tafoya stated this was not an option for the City at this time.

Dr. Larkin questioned recycling for commercial businesses within the City. Mrs. Tafoya stated laws that enforce recycling with commercial entities are in place by State law; however, private hauling companies are utilized by those commercial businesses to remove the recyclable materials.

Dr. Kane asked if recycling rates could be reported between the various locations such as single family versus multifamily dwellings to provide education, if needed, in those locations. Mr. Bryant responded recycling routes are divided by geographical areas and recycling is comingled. Therefore, the ability to separate the rate of recycling by single family and multifamily dwellings was not possible. Mr. Bryant stated education for either location would be the same due to household recyclable materials being the similar for both.

D. Keep Greenville Beautiful Update

The efforts of Keep Greenville Beautiful were combined with the Recycling Update Discussion in Item 7C above.

E. Town Creek Culvert Update

Mrs. Kirby reported the 90% plans for Town Creek Culvert have been received from the consultant for review by the City. The plan has been modified from the original request to include a Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance (RSC). This would provide more nutrient removal than the Stream restoration components as originally identified. Dr. Kane asked for more information on the RSC. Mrs. Kirby stated RSCs are a series of step pools that will be placed between 3rd

Street and 4th Streets that would increase nutrient removal.

Mrs. Kirby stated meetings were scheduled for stakeholders such as ECU, utility owners, and private property owners. The next public meeting will be held on October 6, 2015 at Sheppard Memorial Library. The project schedule has final plans due to the State for approval by December 2015. Execution of construction contracts are anticipated in August 2016 with a completion of construction within 24 months.

Dr. Kimmel asked the status of the stormwater stakeholders group. Mrs. Kirby stated that group was established to determine stormwater program improvements that could be instituted by the City and was not specifically related to the Town Creek Culvert project.

F. Watershed Master Plan Update

Mrs. Kirby reported the inventory is about 95% complete. Consultants have completed modeling of the existing system and are investigating capital projects. Preliminary water quality data is being collected from sampling of streams. Preliminary results show Swift Creek nitrates increase outside City limits and Greens Mill Run nitrates are significantly lower than Swift Creek.

The 2nd public meeting for the Watershed Master Plan is scheduled for November 2015. Citizens will be informed of the conclusions of results that were identified at the first public meeting. The Watershed Master Plan will be presented to City Council in March 2016. Dr. Larkin asked what will be presented to City Council. Mrs. Kirby stated the actual plan will be presented and will include recommendations on capital projects as identified by the plan. The projects will be separated into flood control projects, water quality projects, and stream restoration or bank stabilization projects.

Dr. Larkin questioned the role of EAC in the process of the plan. Mrs. Kirby stated EAC was instrumental in getting information to citizens for participation in surveys. Dr. Larkin also asked if EAC would be able to review the plan before presentation to City Council. Mrs. Kirby stated the final draft would not be available until January 2016. Dr. Larkin stated he felt EAC should review and be knowledgeable of the plan and support recommendations being identified. Mrs. Kirby will schedule the consultants to present current findings and summarize water quality information at the October 1, 2015 meeting.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Representative on the Comprehensive Plan Committee

Dr. Kimmel asked if anyone would be willing to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Dr. Kane stated she attended the kickoff meeting and would be agreeable to serve on the committee. Dr. Ames stated Council Member Blackburn asked if he would be interested in representing EAC on the committee; however, he did not object to Dr. Kane serving. Therefore, Dr. Ames made a motion to have Dr. Kane represent EAC on the Comprehensive Plan Committee and identify himself as an alternative if Dr. Kane was unable to attend. Dr. Larkin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Plastic Resolution Discussion

Dr. Ames stated the resolution was endorsed by EAC at the May 2015 meeting and recommended City Council promote elimination or reduction in use of single use plastic bags. Dr. Kimmel asked if the resolution had been presented to Council. Mrs. Kirby stated EAC voted to move forward with the resolution at the May 7, 2015 meeting; however, the resolution was not approved by EAC in its final state.

Dr. Larkin asked if there was a plan to implement the recommendations within the resolution. Dr.

Ames stated the steps had not been determined and would need to be finalized by EAC. Dr. Larkin stated a more specific recommendation be made by EAC to City Council by the resolution. Dr. Kimmel suggested the resolution be redistributed and a more definitive action be recommended.

Dr. Ames asked if City staff provide direction and implementation of the recommendations. Mrs. Kirby stated she felt the most advantageous approach would be to present the final version of the resolution to Keep Greenville Beautiful and other commissions or environmental groups to provide a stronger support base for presentation to City Council. Mrs. Kirby stated upon approval of the resolution by City Council, staff would be directed to investigate the costs of initiating the recommendations.

Dr. Larkin stated he felt EAC should identify what they felt should be accomplished by the resolution as well as a discussion of actions that would follow to implement the recommendations. Dr. Kimmel suggested redistribution of the resolution to members to provide a more specific action by the Commission to present to City Council. Dr. Ames made a motion to table further discussion to the October 1, 2015 meeting to allow EAC members to review and provide feedback and be ready to finalize the resolution at that time. Dr. Larkin made a second. The motion passed unanimously.

9. OTHER– FYI

A. Quarterly UST Report

10. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

The following items are proposed for the October 1, 2015 meeting:

A. Election of Officers

B. Plastic Resolution Discussion

C. Earth Day and State of the Environment Subcommittee Formation

D. Watershed Master Plan Review

E. Recycling Report

F. 2016-2017 EAC Grant

11. Adjournment –There being no further business to discuss, Dr. Ames made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Larkin and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.