

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

December 7, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

David Ames

Drake Brinkley

Nathaniel Hamilton

Diego LLerena

Ann Maxwell

Durk Tyson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Daryl Norris, City of Greenville

Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville

Chad Carwein, ECU

Craig Becker, Sierra Club

Janet Rose, Sierra Club

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Tyson proposed adding a New Business Item B to add members of the Sustainable Energy Committee of the Sierra Club to give an update on their activities. A motion was made by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brinkley and passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2, 2017 MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Maxwell to approve the minutes of November 2, 2017 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hamilton and passed unanimously.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Maxwell reminded everyone of the City of Greenville's Christmas Parade being held on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 5pm beginning at Town Commons.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Stormwater Annual Report

Mr. Norris presented the Stormwater Annual Report to EAC. Mr. Norris noted there are five elements of the plan and briefly reviewed those with EAC. Mrs. Maxwell asked about Greens Mill Run and the status of monitoring of this watershed. Mr. Norris stated that Greens Mill Run is currently on the 303D List which is an impaired list of streams in the State. Mr. Norris stated that Greens Mill Run is on the list based on biological integrity likely caused by flow and erosion of the banks of the stream. Mr. Norris added the list is updated every four years with sampling currently being done by the State to qualify streams to be placed on the 303D list. However, Mr. Norris stated that the City is currently working to ascertain if City resources could be utilized to provide water sampling results to the State to potentially make improvements to the stream and update the status of Greens Mill Run on the 303D list prior to regulations being imposed by the State. Mrs. Maxwell asked if there were current ordinances to further protect the stream. Mr.

Norris replied there are ordinances in force and stated one of the stricter ordinances for Greens Mill Run area requires new development to provide peak flow controls for the 25 year storm within the Greens Mill Run Watershed in addition to the 1, 5, and 10 year storm which is currently in force for other areas of the City.

B. Sierra Club Sustainable Energy Committee Update

Dr. Ames stated in 2007 the Sierra Club worked with the EAC and the City of Greenville to incorporate the Cool Cities Initiative. The Greenville Climate Protection Partnership (GCPP) was formed and many objectives were implemented from the development of this committee. The GCPP dissolved and the Sierra Club formed a Sustainable Energy Committee to create a structure to pursue to continue the grass roots efforts of GCPP.

Craig Becker with the Sierra Club commented the Sustainable Energy Committee was in support of the EAC's 2017 goals, specifically goals five and six, and would like to offer any assistance in accomplishing these goals. Dr. Ames stated he felt the next step would be to establish a committee with interested citizens, EAC, and Sierra Club to further pursue achieving the action items of those goals.

Dr. Ames noted the Cool Cities Initiative noted a need for a person responsible for maintaining monitoring of sustainability efforts for the City. Mr. Carwein commented that he felt the EAC should have their action item for Goal Six to explore the feasibility of a Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Greenville should be made into its own goal and be prioritized to Goal One. Mrs. Maxwell asked if a motion needed to be made to meet with the City Manager to petition for this position. Mr. Carwein stated he felt this would be a start in the process. Mr. Tyson asked Mr. Norris to determine the best course of action in contacting City staff regarding making this request a priority. Mr. Norris stated he felt the first step would be to contact the City Manager as well as making contact with the Council Liaison for EAC and personal City Council representatives for the members of the EAC. Dr. Becker added that he felt documentation supporting the addition of this position would be beneficial and offered the assistance of a graduate student with ECU to provide this information. Mr. Becker stated he would need a letter from the EAC or the City to further this effort.

Jane Rose with the Sierra Club commended EAC on their goals and urged EAC to continue to pursue the goals to make Greenville a greener community.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Volkswagen Settlement Update

Mr. Tyson reported that Volkswagen would be paying \$2.9 billion in a mitigation trust fund that will be shared among states affected by an investigation launched in 2015 by then-Attorney General Cooper and other state attorneys general into Volkswagen for making and installing illegal software devices to help some vehicles defeat emission tests. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency discovered that certain diesel powered automobiles manufactured by Volkswagen AG and its Audi and Porsche affiliates circumvented federal air emission standards and violated the Clean Air Act by allowing some vehicles to emit 40 times the allowable levels of nitrogen oxide (NOx). The car makers installed defeat devices in 2.0-liter 4-cylinder and 3.0-liter 6-cylinder diesel engines produced between 2009 and 2015. North Carolina's share in this payment is \$92 million. The Governor of North Carolina appointed The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as the lead plan agency to develop a mitigation plan. DEQ has established a website to solicit comments for recommendations to utilize these funds and comments are due by December 31, 2017. Mr. Tyson stated there are provisions as to how funds can be expended and must go to reduce NOx emissions to offset the excess emissions caused by Volkswagen's deceptive actions.

B. Council Presentation Review

Mr. Tyson directed attention to the Council Presentation in the agenda package. Mr. Tyson stated he would do a recap of the mission of the EAC, diversity of the group, and highlight the goals of EAC. Mrs. Maxwell noted she would like to have our accomplishments highlighted and commended Mr. Norris for his presentation to the Neighborhood Advisory Board. Mr. Tyson also stated that he would present EAC's request to support the need for a Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Greenville.

C. 2018 Goals & Objectives Discussion

Mr. Tyson asked members to review the goals & objectives for 2018 to finalize for the January 4, 2018 meeting. Dr. Hamilton suggested moving item 6C to item 1A. Mr. Brinkley further commented that he would like to see item 6C become an individual goal and move it to item 1 with tangible action items.

D. Solar Energy Conference Update

Mr. Tyson stated the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center held a Solar Energy Conference in November. The focus was on the myths and explanations of solar energy. Mr. Tyson stated he felt two target audiences which were landowners and solar farm possibilities and homeowners/farmers and solar effects.

E. Chip Reader for Sanitation Update

Mr. Norris reported on a follow up with the Sanitation Manager and was informed the chip that was included in the current refuse containers was specific to these receptacles and readers would have to be purchased for the vehicles as well. The only data collected from the readers would be if the container was picked up. The information did not include the amount, weight or content of the container.

9. Commission Reports

A. ECU Sustainability Report

Mr. Carwein gave a PowerPoint presentation on sustainability efforts at ECU. The Green Fund Campaign fee was not approved by the Board of Trustees. The presentation addressed:

- Greenhouse Gas Inventory update for East Carolina University
- Bike racks and bin receptacles on campus
- Hook Magazine article regarding ECU sustainability efforts
- Sustainability Film Screenings
- Greenville Community Garden

B. SWAC Update

Mr. Brinkley reported the Stormwater Advisory Committee (SWAC) met on December 5, 2017. The focus of this meeting focused on current funds available (\$6.2 million) in comparison to the funds needed (\$16.7 million) to accomplish desired Stormwater projects within the City. The next meeting will be held on January 9, 2018 at 3p.m. in City Hall Conference Room 337.

10. OTHER– FYI

A. UST Report

11. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

The following items are proposed for the January 4, 2018 meeting:

- A. Elections**
- B. Town Creek Culvert Update**
- C. Council Presentation – Finalize**
- D. Draft Calendar – Review**
- E. 2018 Goals & Objectives**

F. Cool Cities Initiative

G. Plastic Bag Resolution Update

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Brinkley made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Maxwell and passed unanimously.