

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
MAY 3, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

David Ames	Emilie Kane
Diego Llerena	Ann Maxwell
Durk Tyson	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Daryl Norris, City of Greenville
Chad Carwein, ECU

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Tyson requested Old Business Items C and D be removed from the agenda as there was no update available. Mrs. Maxwell stated Dr. Ames had forwarded a copy of the old Cool Cities Initiative; however it will be discussed under the Sustainability Report. Mrs. Maxwell added discussion of an article regarding plastics was noted in announcements from the April 2018 meeting and asked for that to be added as new business. Dr. Kane made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Maxwell and passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF APRIL 5, 2018 MINUTES

Mr. Tyson noted that he was not present at the April 5, 2018 meeting and Call to Order should reflect Vice-Chairperson Dr. Kane as calling the meeting to order. Dr. Kane noted the date of the meeting should be corrected to April 5, 2018 and Item 4 should be approval of the March 1, 2018 minutes. A motion was made by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of April 5, 2018 as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kane and passed unanimously.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Tyson announced that his term expired April 2018 and stated that he is in the process of moving outside of the city limits of Greenville. Mr. Tyson stated he will continue to serve until he is replaced or at the discretion of City Council.

Mr. Tyson announced Sound Rivers hosts an Earth Day Weekend River Cleanup event with Greenville, Rocky Mount, Washington and Tarboro participating. Greenville won the trophy for the most trash cleaned along the Tar River.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. None

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sustainability Reports Discussion

Dr. Ames stated the Sierra Club has a committee focused on sustainability. The committee recently reviewed a report provided by Shivani Pandya, ECU. The report summarized responses

from other municipalities on the need of an office of sustainability. Dr. Ames added he had spoken with Kevin Mulligan, Public Works Director, and Mr. Mulligan stated that the City of Greenville attempts within projects to promote sustainability efforts despite the absence of a sustainability officer. Mr. Llerena stated that Mr. Mulligan also presented the option of investigating hiring a consultant to determine the need of a sustainability office or position.

Dr. Kane asked about the contract with Schneider Electric regarding the program to save the City approximately \$140,000.00 annually in energy conservation. Mr. Tyson responded that the City contracted with Schneider Electric to do improvements on City buildings for energy efficiency.

Mrs. Maxwell stated she felt that although the City creates initiatives and actions for sustainability efforts, without a position or office to manage those actions, the developments are not managed properly. Mrs. Maxwell asked if a meeting had been set up with the City Manager. Mr. Tyson stated he had contacted the City Manager's office and will follow up with them to confirm an appointment date and time and inform commission members of the appointment.

B. Volkswagen Settlement Mitigation Update

Mr. Tyson reported North Carolina issued their draft mitigation plan in March. The plan is structured into three phases with each phase utilizing approximately one-third of the total funds available and adjusting the amount of funds if necessary according to expenditures for each phase. Stakeholder meetings were held and additional comments were being solicited until May 3, 2018.

North Carolina anticipates finalizing the first phase of the plan by no later than July 2018. The first phase of the plan will develop five programs to target emission control. Funds will be split by approximation into the following categories: 35% of funds to be applied to school bus replacements; 20% of funds applied to transit bus replacements; 10% of funds applied to heavy duty on road equipment; 15% of funds applied to heavy duty off road; and 15% of funds applied to 0% emission vehicle infrastructure. Once the plan is finalized and funds are received, a grant type program is anticipated with funds being distributed accordingly. Mr. Tyson will report any information as it becomes available.

C. Cool Cities Initiative Update

Although this item was initially tabled, Mrs. Maxwell stated she read the report distributed by Dr. Ames and felt concerned regarding the initiatives in the plan and lack of visibility of what has been accomplished. Dr. Ames stated some of the initiatives had been completed; however, the initial program began in 2007 and since that time other environmental factors have constituted necessary changes as well as the lack of visibility on accomplishments.

D. Plastic Bag Resolution Update

This item was tabled for future discussion.

E. Plastics Article

Mrs. Maxwell stated the article referenced tiny particles of plastic in drinking water. Mrs. Maxwell also referenced an article regarding plastics in composting as well. Dr. Kane mentioned other countries looking into the possibility of banning plastic bags. Mr. Llerena added he had a discussion with Mr. Mulligan and was told that State Laws govern plastic bag bans and the City of Greenville could not institute a ban. Mr. Tyson also added the resolution from EAC only mentioned a ban as an option along with other options.

9. Commission Reports

A. ECU Sustainability Report

Mr. Carwein reported ECU was working with Clean Air Carolina, a non-profit organization, to monitor air quality in Pitt County. The monitoring would only report on particulate matter. Mr.

Carwein also stated Pitt County Schools is looking to place security cameras in their buses and it may be worth contacting them to inform them of the Volkswagen Mitigation plan and the possibility of replacing current buses if eligible.

Mr. Carwein stated ECU held a Sustainability Master Plan Summit. The next step in the process is to develop a draft Sustainability Master Plan and will be made available in July 2018 for stakeholder and public comments. A final plan will be presented for adoption to ECU in October or November 2018. Dr. Kane asked who the stakeholders were for the plan. Mr. Carwein stated there were about 60 people from ECU that are participating. Dr. Kane asked how the City of Greenville could generate participation in sustainability for the City. Mrs. Maxwell stated a meeting with the City Manager should begin the process.

B. Bike & Pedestrian Commission Update

Dr. Kane attended the Bike & Pedestrian Commission meeting. The Bike Share program was discussed. The commission expressed concern regarding bicyclist and pedestrian safety. The Commission also expressed concern regarding the lack of their involvement in the request for input on the program for a bike share program for Greenville.

10. OTHER– FYI

A. Sustainability Report Information (Attachment B)

11. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

The following items are proposed for the June 7, 2018 meeting:

A. 2017-2018 EAC Grant Final Presentation

B. Greenville Utilities Commission Update (D. Tyson) – will be moved to August

C. Neighborhood Advisory Board Update (A. Maxwell) – will be moved to August

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Tyson concluded the meeting by unanimous confirmation.