

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
September 6, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members of the Environmental Advisory Commission met on the above date at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Public Works Facility. Mr. Jay Holley, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. The following attended the meeting:

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Mr. Scott Anderson
Dr. Robert Chin
Mr. Jay Holley

Mr. Owen Burney
Mr. Hugh Cox
Ms. Laura Williamson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Council Member Marion Blackburn, City of Greenville
Kinsey Holton, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Scott Godefroy, City of Greenville
Lindsey Walker, ECU
Jamie Wheeler, ECU
Ethan Brogden, ECU
Caitlin Titus, ECU
Eric Vitale, ECU
Stephen Herendeen, ECU

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2, 2012 MINUTES

Mr. Holley asked that a correction be made to the minutes under Old Business Item G in the second paragraph to read “Mr. Godefroy stated the lights were determined to be *effective...*”

A motion was made by Mr. Cox to accept the minutes as amended and was seconded by Mr. Burney. The motion passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Holley recognized students visiting from East Carolina University and each introduced themselves. There were no further public comments.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Announcements

- Mr. Holley informed EAC that Dr. Sid Mitra, with the Geology Department at ECU will be teaching a forensic geology class in the spring of 2013. Dr. Mitra is looking for a local demonstration project that will allow student interaction with forensic

evaluations and has chosen Town Creek as that project. The project would allow for water sampling and installing passive detectors on the Greenway Bridge at Town Common Bridge that monitors air quality.

Dr. Mitra is currently gathering data on the history of Town Creek water quality issues. City staff will forward all prior correspondence and reports from NCDENR-DWQ to Jay Holley to share with Dr. Mitra.

B. Earth Hour City Challenge

Mr. Holton reported to the group a request by a citizen of Greenville to participate in the Earth Hour City Challenge being offered by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The challenge is designed to invite participating cities or counties to submit plans aimed at making their communities more sustainable and resilient.

The City Challenge will select a “U.S. Earth Hour Capital,” as well as a “Global Earth Hour Capital.” The U.S. Earth Hour Capital and two to five cities or counties selected by follow up interviews with WWF will receive a grant award of \$30,000 - \$100,000 to expand their public engagement on climate action.

Participants will be asked to share data on local greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reduction targets, as well as actions to reach those targets and prepare for climate vulnerabilities. The minimum requirement to be evaluated for the City Challenge is one year’s GHG emissions inventory and one action taken or planned to reduce GHG emissions.

Mr. Holley suggested GCPP take on the leadership role to complete the application process by obtaining updated GHG emissions inventory information and have EAC prepare a resolution presented to City Council for support. Mr. Cox turned the suggestion into a motion and the motion was seconded by Mr. Burney. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Service Learning Community Partnership with ECU

Dr. Chin presented those present with a handout regarding ECU’s Volunteer and Service-Learning Center. The handout detailed information regarding what service-learning consists of, why ECU encourages service-learning, how service-learning benefits the community, and sample projects for service-learning.

The initial goal of presenting this topic for consideration involved having ECU partner with EAC for a service-learning project. Since the initial request, Dr. Chin and Dr. Behm have partnered with the sustainability committee with ECU; however, would still like EAC to consider partnering for a service-learning project in the future. Mr. Holley asked what the next steps were to have EAC partner with a service-learning center. Dr. Chin responded that he would inform ECU of EAC’s desire to partner and would have someone contact EAC for more information.

Mr. Cox made a motion for Dr. Chin to inform ECU of EAC’s desire to partner with the service-learning center for future partnerships. Ms. Williamson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sustainability Plan Review

Mr. Holley reminded the group of the task to review the draft sustainability document presented at the August 2, 2012 meeting. The document was not a draft sustainability plan; however, it was a report detailing the need for a sustainability plan to be presented to City Council.

Discussion ensued regarding the various components of a sustainability plan. Mr. Cox acknowledged Lisa Kirby, with the City of Greenville, has been working on the report presented and an actual sustainability plan will be the product of various departments within the City and other partners in the community and will require approval by City Council.

B. GCPP – Discussion

Mr. Cox announced the next meeting of GCPP will be held on September 11, 2012 at 5:30pm in the Public Works Conference Room. The topic of discussion will be the sustainability report as referenced in the discussion above and the GHG emissions data to complete the request of the Earth Hour City Challenge application submittal.

C. Brochure for Plastic Waste

Mr. Holley began the discussion by stating the funding for the brochure has not been established. Mr. Anderson reiterated the lack of a target audience as well. Mr. Holley stated without a target audience, the quantity of brochures could not be determined thereby further deterring a possible funding source. Mr. Godefroy announced he would research the possibility of utilizing recycling – public education funds to produce the brochure.

Another topic of concern for the brochure was the lack of a designer within the City of Greenville staff. Ms. Williamson commented she felt an ECU or Pitt Community college student could provide this service. Ms. Williamson will explore options and report back to EAC. Mr. Holton will also inquire with Steve Hawley, the Public Information Officer to verify the brochure design ideas meet City standards.

D. GTV – PSA – October, November, December

Mr. Holton asked for topics for the next quarter of GTV – PSA for GTV9. Mr. Holley suggested pulling bullet points from the plastics brochure for the October PSA. November was determined to be green vacationing lodging. December's topic will be energy efficiency. Mr. Cox and Mr. Burney were asked to consider doing an interview with Steve Hawley for GTV9 on an environmental topic.

E. EECBG Update

Mr. Holton stated the work at Public Works began with LED light replacement on all wall packs and canopy lights. The parking lot lights are not being replaced with LED at this time. Parks and Recreation's eight (8) scoreboard lighting is also being replaced with LED lighting.

Mr. Godefroy presented the Investment Grade Audit required for the Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Project. The audit was presented to the Local Government Council on August 15, 2012 and, once approved, will be presented to City Council.

F. Lighting Standards Update

Mr. Godefroy reported the group discussed the various options of street lighting and determined the “white” lighting of LED was the most proficient; however the initial cost of the lights to the City would need to be investigated further. Ms. Williamson will be unable to attend the stakeholders meeting to be held Wednesday, September 12, 2012 and asked if another EAC member would be available to attend in her place. Mr. Cox volunteered to attend the meeting.

8. OTHER– FYI

A. Recycling Report

B. UST Report

C. EAC Calendar

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – The following items are proposed for the October 4, 2012 meeting:

A. Keep Greenville Beautiful Update

B. Redevelopment Commission Update

C. GCPP Update

D. Plastics Brochure

10. Adjournment –There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

***Attached are documents presented at the meeting not attached to the original agenda.