

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**April 3, 2014**

**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. Dr. Michael Behm, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. The following attended the meeting:

**1. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS:**

Dr. David Ames  
Dr. Robert Chin  
Dr. David Kimmel

Dr. Michael Behm  
Mr. Hugh Cox

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Kinsey Holton, City of Greenville  
Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville  
Kevin Mulligan, City of Greenville  
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville  
Council Member Marion Blackburn  
Council Member Rick Smiley  
Andy Yakim, Greenville Utilities  
J.C. Woodley, Greenville Citizen

**2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Mr. Holton requested the Tar River Study Update and the River Park North UST/AST Update be tabled to the May 1, 2014 meeting. Dr. Kimmel made a motion to proceed with the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Chin and passed unanimously.

**3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 6, 2014 MINUTES**

A motion was made by Dr. Chin to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Behm and passed unanimously.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Mr. Holton announced he had accepted a position in Charleston, South Carolina and will be leaving the City of Greenville.
- Council Member Blackburn announced the Tar River Legacy Plan would be holding a public hearing on April 26, 2014 at 10am at City Hall.
- Dr. Chin announced April is National Rebuilding Together month and the Pitt County Chapter will be co-hosting its celebration at the Intergenerational Center along with the City of Greenville's Spring Cleanup day on Saturday, April 5, 2014. Festivities will begin at 8:00am.
- Dr. Behm presented Mr. Cox and Dr. Chin with a Certificate of Recognition for their time served on EAC and GCPP.
- Council Member Blackburn announced she had two candidates she would be appointing to EAC

pending City Council approval on April 10, 2014. Discussion ensued regarding the category each member would hold and it was determined that Council Member Blackburn would request Dr. Kimmel to take on Dr. Chin's position as educator, thereby allowing Dr. Kane and Mr. Woodley to fill the remaining categories of "local environmental group" and "attorney or other person knowledgeable of environmental regulations and environmental safety practices" respectively. Dr. Kimmel made a motion to present the information as stated above to City Council. Dr. Behm seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Dr. Ames asked if research had been completed regarding Pitt County's position on the NCDENR's recycling list in the second position. Dr. Ames had previously inquired about the types of recycling incentives and programs being offered by Catawba County and if the City of Greenville was participating in such programs. This topic will be added to the May 1, 2014 agenda.
- Dr. Ames also asked if a single use plastic bags ban was discussed within Public Works. Mr. Holton stated he had not received feedback on this item and would include it on the May 1, 2014 agenda.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no public comments

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Greenville Utilities Water Conservation Program**

Mr. Andy Yakim with the Greenville Utilities Energy Services Division was present to discuss various ways for citizens to conserve water. Mr. Yakim explained most common use of water in residential settings were showers and running toilets. Mr. Yakim then presented the group with various types of water meters and identified methods in which Greenville Utilities determines if there is a leak within a residence. Mr. Yakim also presented the group with multiple handouts that detailed water conservation ideas. These handouts are available with the April 3, 2014 meeting agenda package.

### **B. Tar River Study Update**

This item was tabled to the May 1, 2014 meeting.

### **C. Pirate Fest Discussion (previously known as Green Fest)**

Mr. Holton asked the group if they would be interested in attending Pirate Fest. Dr. Ames announced that he had attempted to acquire a booth and the venue was booked to capacity. The group discussed the possibility of partnering with other environmental groups and passing out the plastics brochure. After further discussion, it was determined EAC would not attend Pirate Fest this year.

### **D. City Council Chamber Meeting Discussion**

Mr. Holton began by reminding everyone that EAC members voted last year to have EAC meetings remain at the Public Works' Facility with the understanding the group would be reconsider the decision in one year. Dr. Behm asked the opinions of the group. Ms. Kirby commented previous EAC members feared the group would be less productive due to lack of participation and discussion as a result of being televised in Council Chambers. Council Member Blackburn stated she felt EAC would become more transparent and have greater visibility and become a stronger voice on policies by moving meetings to Council Chambers. Council Member

Blackburn also stated if members wanted to move back to Public Works, that option could be revisited as well.

Mr. Cox commented that the political atmosphere had changed and felt moving to Council Chambers could benefit the visibility of the Commission. Mr. Woodley also stated in researching EAC, there was very little information available about the Commission excluding the dedicated webpage on the City's site.

Dr. Chin made a motion to have EAC meetings move to the City of Greenville's City Council Chambers beginning with the August 2014 meeting. Mr. Cox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. 2014 EAC Grant**

Mr. Mulligan informed EAC of his discussion with Red Moon Marketing regarding their interest in the possibility of funding a grant for EAC. Mr. Mulligan stated Red Moon Marketing would like a more defined environmental project idea before proceeding with further discussions.

Dr. Behm asked if EAC should reach out to public schools in the City limits for ideas that would allow a wider education component to environmental issues. Mr. Mulligan stated he felt that EAC should narrow the topic and allow schools to apply for the grant with the scope outlined. Dr. Behm also questioned if recycling could be furthered with grant funding in public schools. Ms. Kirby commented that recycling had been addressed with the City's Feed the Bin program and asked if there were other recycling ideas that could be approached. Mr. Mulligan stated that composting could be considered. Dr. Behm stated he would also contact Ms. Karen Quick with Pitt County Schools to identify possible topics for consideration.

Dr. Behm also announced Ridgewood Elementary School would be applying for the 2014-2015 EAC grant with focus on a rain garden.

**B. 2014 Goals Implementation**

Dr. Behm directed attention to the goals attached to the agenda. Dr. Behm asked members to be mindful of the goals with finished results to be presented to City Council.

**C. River Park North UST/AST Update**

This item was tabled to the May 1, 2014 meeting.

**D. Public Survey**

Dr. Kimmel reported the survey would be administered by his biology student and would be presented at Pirate Fest. At this time, the survey would be presented as an independent study by a student; however, the information obtained would be utilized by EAC once the survey is complete.

**8. OTHER- FYI**

**A. Recycling Report**

**B. March 6, 2014 handouts**

**9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – The following items are proposed for the May 1, 2014 meeting:**

**A. EAC Calendar – Proposed Calendar**

**B. 2014 EAC Grant**

- C. Recycling Discussion NCDENR Results**
- D. Plastic Bags Discussion**
- E. Tar River Legacy Study Update**
- F. River Park North UST/AST Update**
- G. Wayne Caldwell – EAC History and Achievements**

**10. Adjournment** –There being no further business to discuss, Dr. Kimmel made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Chin and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.