

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINTUES**  
**August 7, 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. Mr. Scott Anderson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. The following attended the meeting:

**1. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS:**

David Ames	Scott Anderson
Michael Behm	Owen Burney, Jr
David Kimmel	James Woodley

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Harry Stubbs, FROGGS  
Council Member Rick Smiley  
Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville  
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

A motion was made by Dr. Behm and seconded by Mr. Burney to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 5, 2014 MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Burney to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ames and passed unanimously.

**5. ANNOUCEMENTS**

- Dr. Ames asked that Pitt County Recycling initiatives be added to the October meeting agenda. Dr. Ames also requested the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement and associated Greenville Climate Protection Partnership Action Plan (Goals) be added as well.
- Council Member Blackburn recognized this meeting as EAC's first televised meeting and thanked everyone for their hard work and diligence in meeting the initiatives of the group.
- Mr. Anderson informed members to RSVP to Mrs. Braddy, staff secretary, for future EAC meetings to assure quorum will be met to provide sufficient notice to City staff and the public in the event of a meeting cancellation.
- Mr. Anderson informed the group that all presentations made in the City Council Chambers would need to be formatted according to City Council standards and advised members to contact Mrs. Braddy for the correct format as needed.
- Mr. Anderson announced the City is beginning their Watershed Master Plan Inventory and would like citizens to complete a questionnaire which can be located at [www.greenvillewmp.com](http://www.greenvillewmp.com)

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no public comments.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. FROGGS Update**

Mr. Stubbs reported FROGGS is currently working on the following activities:

- Installed an informational sign on Greens Mill Run about fossils.
- Actively seeking a sponsor for a new sign on water quality in the Tar River to be installed in Phase 3 of the greenway.
- Completed a wildflower garden on the greenway located near the off-leash dog park.
- A “Watch for Me” event will be held on August 23, 2014 from 9am to 12noon at the off-leash dog park. This event is being held in conjunction with the City Police Department and will be focusing on bike safety.
- The second annual “Whoo’s on the Greenway” is being scheduled for October 18, 2014.
- Actively working to raise funds for additional amenities for Phase 3 of the South Tar River greenway.

**B. Engagement with Council and Other Commissions**

Mr. Anderson began by noting that EAC has been seeking opportunities to actively engage with other commissions and City Council. Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Woodley to present his research on the various commissions and committees regarding environmental issues that may be of interest to EAC.

Mr. Woodley directed attention to Attachment B of the agenda package containing a list of the City of Greenville’s Boards and Commissions which detailed the mission statement, number of members, and where and when meetings were held for each board and commission. Mr. Woodley created an environmental scoring system which considers environmental impacts, environmental education opportunities, and environmental sustainability opportunities to identify the potential each board and commission may have when considering projects or programs that could impact the environment.

Mr. Woodley then directed attention to the table of Attachment B which highlighted the ranking of each board and commission in relation to the scoring system previously detailed. Mr. Woodley suggested volunteers consider the boards and commissions that were ranked higher than a 1-2 status. Council Member Blackburn requested the Neighborhood Advisory Board and the Planning and Zoning Commission be considered in the list as well. EAC members volunteered for their choice of boards and commissions as follows:

<b><u>Board/Commission</u></b>	<b><u>EAC Member</u></b>
Recreation & Parks Commission	James Woodley
Redevelopment Commission	Scott Anderson
Greenville Utilities Commission	David Kimmel
Community Appearance Commission	Michael Behm
Greenville Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission	Michael Behm
Neighborhood Advisory Board	David Ames
Planning & Zoning Commission	Owen Burney

Emilie Kane was absent from the meeting and was therefore assigned the Public Transportation & Parking Commission.

Ms. Kirby will set up a quarterly schedule for reporting of each board or commission and add to EAC's upcoming agendas accordingly.

**C. Tar River Legacy – EAC Involvement**

Mr. Woodley attended a meeting held on July 24, 2014. Mr. Woodley stated the public comment period was complete and the plan is scheduled to be presented to City Council in upcoming months. Mr. Woodley also stated an oversight committee is being established to keep the momentum of the project moving forward and felt that EAC should be a part of that group. Mr. Anderson noted any documents from the public meetings could be found on the project's website at [www.tarriverlegacyplan.com](http://www.tarriverlegacyplan.com)

**D. Meeting Time Discussion**

Mr. Anderson began the discussion by reiterating EAC meetings were now being held in City Council Chambers and televised. With this change, Mr. Anderson asked if members would like to consider changing the meeting time to accommodate an earlier schedule such as beginning at 4:00pm or 4:30pm. Mr. Anderson noted the offer was being entertained to adjourn meetings earlier for members and staff. Mr. Anderson also noted that if any member's schedule conflicted with any alternate time, the meeting would continue as scheduled.

After further discussion, it was determined the meeting would continue to be held on the first Thursday of each month at 5:30pm in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Environmental Survey Report Update**

Dr. Kimmel reported the survey has been completed and the draft report is being presented for discussion. Dr. Kimmel asked that EAC members review the report and make suggestions for improvements if necessary and also consider how the information needs to be dispersed.

Mr. Anderson asked Dr. Kimmel to give a brief history of the survey. Dr. Kimmel stated during the spring of 2014, EAC wished to gather information from the public to determine the environmental issues that were most relevant to the citizens of Greenville. It was decided to conduct an environmental survey of Greenville residents.

The environmental survey was developed by EAC member David G. Kimmel in conjunction with ECU faculty member Dr. Hans Vogelsong. The survey was administered at various locations around Greenville (the mall, Pirate Fest) by Biology student Kelsey Bryan, who earned research credit through ECU Biology Department for conducting the survey and compiling the data.

Dr. Ames asked Dr. Kimmel how the report should be utilized. Dr. Kimmel stated he felt the major topic of conversation for both citizens and EAC has been water conservation and EAC could engage Greenville Utilities Commission.

Mr. Woodley stated he felt Greenville citizens were unaware of environmental concerns for the City and this survey could be a potential lead to an Environmental Report Card. Dr. Kimmel stated he felt the survey reflected citizens' limited knowledge of the state of the environment for the city as well as the citizens' limited knowledge on the efforts of City government to positively influence

environmental issues.

Dr. Kimmel asked if there was any interest in publicizing the information contained in the report. Council Member Blackburn stated once the information was available in a completed document, she could summarize the report in a newsletter to citizens and would download the document to her website as well. It was also noted the report would be attached to the October 2, 2014 agenda for public review.

**B. Plastic Bags Discussion**

Mrs. Kirby directed attention to Attachment C of the agenda. Mrs. Kirby stated the sourced website listed provided information on three counties in North Carolina that currently ban plastic bags. Council Member Blackburn expressed concerns in the toxicity of plastic bags to the environment but acknowledged plastic bag diversion should come from marketing and not necessarily complete governmental bans.

Dr. Ames will compile a report on plastic bags regarding their pros and cons and other efforts to control plastic bags in the environment by other entities and areas. The information will be presented at the November 6, 2014 meeting of EAC.

**9. OTHER– FYI**

**A. Eastern North Carolina Brownfield Coalition Update**

**B. Recycling Report**

**10. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS –**

The following items are proposed for the September 4, 2014 meeting:

**A. EAC Grant Ceremony**

The following items are proposed for the October 2, 2014 meeting:

**A. Commissions Reports**

**B. Pitt County Recycling Efforts**

**C. GCPP Action Plan**

**11. Adjournment** –There being no further business to discuss, Dr. Kimmel made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Behm and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.