

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
October 2, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Scott Anderson
Owen Burney, Jr
James Woodley

Michael Behm
Emilie Kane

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Old Business Item A2 was removed from the agenda as Dr. Kimmel was not present to give an update. Mr. Woodley made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burney and passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 7, 2014 MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Burney to approve the August 7, 2014 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Behm and passed unanimously.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Braddy announced the Pitt County recycling business item that was scheduled to be discussed in October has been rescheduled to the November meeting.
- Ms. Kirby announced citizen input on the Watershed Master Plan is in progress and will continue through October.
- Council Member Blackburn reminded everyone of the FROGGS “Who’s on the Greenway” event being held on October 18, 2014 at River Park North at 5:30pm
- Council Member Blackburn requested Dr. James Kenny be added to the November agenda regarding No Idling signs.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Greenville Climate Protection Partnership (GCPP) Action Plan

Ms. Kirby directed attention to the agenda handout on the GCPP’s action plan goals for infrastructure and transportation. Ms. Kirby stated she had identified goals and action items from

the plan narratives and provided updates on items that are in a working status or have been accomplished. Ms. Kirby noted the items were not in order of priority and that some of the goals had no measurable impacts. Dr. Behm asked if EAC could contact former GCPP members and have them speak to the action items they created in initial plans. Ms. Kirby stated Dr. Kenny was the lead for the Transportation Plan and Council Member Blackburn was the lead on the Infrastructure Plan.

Mr. Anderson stated he felt EAC should evaluate the GCPP Action Plan goals and determine if they are adequate and the measurable. Mr. Anderson requested each member review the list of goals and provide feedback to determine if the GCPP goals could be incorporated into EAC goals. Mr. Anderson asked Ms. Braddy to provide the list of goals to each member and have comments returned to her for further discussion at the November EAC meeting. Dr. Kenny will also be invited to discuss the Transportation Plan goals.

B. EAC 2015-2016 Grant Review

Ms. Kirby began the discussion by giving a brief history of the Environmental Advisory Awards and Grant Program. Ms. Kirby stated the original focus of the Environmental Advisory Award was to award groups and individuals for their positive impacts on the environment in the community. An award ceremony was held and recipients were publically acknowledged for those efforts. There was no monetary commitment in the initial award program. As the program began to wane, EAC decided to initiate a Grant Program. The original grant was funded by the City's Stormwater Education Fund and the target audience was narrowed to PTA school groups. After further consideration, the applicant pool was expanded to include school groups, such as 4-H clubs, science groups and others as applications were reviewed.

Ms. Kirby commended the work that has been accomplished by the EAC Grant Award recipients. However, Ms. Kirby stated the possibility of broadening the focus of the grant and identifying additional funding sources as well as broadening the eligible applicants should be considered. Mr. Burney asked if the focus of the grant was changed from water quality and education, would the City's Stormwater Education Fund be available. Ms. Kirby commented another funding source would need to be identified with a change in grant focus.

Mr. Woodley asked if a grant could be awarded using Stormwater Education Funds for a developmental program for best management practices to allow grant recipients the ability to develop a plan and initiate opportunities to work with local partners to receive funding. Ms. Kirby stated the Stormwater Education Fund required a water quality and/or pollution prevention component to be addressed; however, she would research and report to the Commission if a developmental plan could be considered. Mr. Woodley also asked if waste disposal could be considered a water quality issue. Ms. Kirby will research to ascertain if the permit allows this as well.

Mr. Woodley addressed the feasibility of a grant writing workshop to assist applicant's in submitting the EAC grant package. Mr. Kirby stated she did not believe the City had this type of workshop. However, Ms. Kirby also stated exit interviews were conducted with two of the former EAC grant recipients and was informed the process for writing and completing the EAC grant application was an easy process and did not hinder their projects.

Council Member Blackburn commented she felt J.H. Rose High School's tour for the last EAC grant was a tremendous success and that broadening the applicant pool could potentially invite a wider array of projects for consideration. Dr. Behm acknowledged Dr. Eban Bean and his work

with J.H. Rose as well.

Mr. Anderson directed attention to the upcoming grant cycle and asked if the focus of the grant should be widened outside of the stormwater component; and if the applicant pool should be expanded to include other entities beyond school groups. Mr. Anderson noted if topics other than stormwater were addressed, alternate funding sources would need to be identified. Mr. Burney stated he felt stormwater was a vital component to the grant at this time. Mr. Anderson asked if Stormwater Funds were still available by the City for funding. Ms. Kirby stated the funds were available this year; however, as the Town Creek Culvert project begins to develop, funding may be allocated to that project to provide educational components. Dr. Behm asked if the City was writing other environmental grants at this time. Ms. Kirby stated she was not aware of any at this time.

Mr. Anderson commented the eligible applicants were initially identified as school PTA groups due to the ability to track allocated funds. Dr. Behm stated Pitt County Schools has a new Science Coordinator and will meet with him if it is determined the grant will be focused on student groups for funding. Mr. Woodley stated he would like to see the applicant pool expanded to other organizations such as neighborhood associations and other youth groups such as the Boys & Girls Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Eagle Scouts, etc. Ms. Kirby also informed the group that in the initial grant process EAC commission members went to the various school group meetings and gave presentations to educate the groups on the grant and its availability in an effort to stir up interest.

Mr. Anderson noted the grant focus and target audience need to be determined as soon as possible to be ready for advertisement in January. Dr. Behm also noted that information on the grant could be distributed to the target groups and an EAC meeting could be used as the presentation time to educate those interested in the grant process. Mr. Woodley asked if there is a limit on the number of grantees that could be awarded. Ms. Kirby responded there was no limit on the number that could be awarded; however, the available funding through Stormwater funds was limited to the \$2,500 maximum.

Mr. Anderson asked for each member to consider their role in establishing the 2015-2016 Grant cycle and be ready at the December meeting to commit to tasks such as determining a marketing group, funding sources, and/or target group. Mr. Woodley stated a State of the Environment meeting could be initiated to bring groups together to determine the needs of the community. This could open opportunities to target groups and funding sources for the EAC grant as well.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Commission Reports

1. Redevelopment Commission

Mr. Anderson reported the primary goal of the commission is to revitalize the uptown and west Greenville areas. Mr. Anderson stated EAC has offered letters of support for grants to the commission such as the Brownfield grant. The commission is currently working on the West Fifth Street Streetscape Improvement Project and has also awarded four grants to businesses that have expanded or relocated to the downtown Greenville area.

2. Greenville Utilities Commission

This report was tabled to the November meeting.

3. Greenville Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission

Dr. Behm noted Harry Stubbs as the chairperson for this commission. Mr. Stubbs provides a FROGGS update to EAC and as such routinely provides an update on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission as well. Dr. Behm reported the commission works with FROGGS and Greenville's Park & Recreation Department as well as other entities to provide advice and recommendations regarding bike and pedestrian issues to City Council. Dr. Kane asked if the commission was involved in developing new bicycle paths in Greenville. Mr. Kirby stated the commission played a part in updating the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan in 2011, and was also responsible for printing Greenville's Bicycle Maps.

9. OTHER– FYI

- A. Recycling Report**
- B. Quarterly UST Report**
- C. Keep Greenville Beautiful Update**
- D. Handouts from the August 7, 2014 EAC meeting**

10. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

The following items are proposed for the November 6, 2014 meeting:

- A. FROGGS Update**
- B. Pitt County Recycling Initiatives**
- C. Plastic Bags Discussion**
- D. 2015 Goals & Objectives – Brainstorm**
- E. Commission Reports**
- F. No Idling Signs Update**
- G. Environmental Survey Update – Finalize report**
- H. GCPP Transportation Plan Review**
- I. 2015-2016 Grant Discussion**

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