

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
June 5, 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:

Scott Anderson
Emilie Kane
J.C. Woodley

Owen Burney, Jr
David Kimmel

OTHERS PRESENT:

Council Member Rick Smiley
Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Jonathan Edwards, City of Greenville
Eban Bean, ECU
Clinton Todd, J.H. Rose High School
Michael Walter, J.H. Rose High School
Baylea Williams, J.H. Rose High School
Brad Williams, River Park North

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Kirby asked that the Plastic Bags Discussion (Old Business Item C) be tabled to the August 7, 2014 meeting. Old Business Item A was moved to New Business Item A. A motion was made by Mr. Woodley and seconded by Dr. Kimmel to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MAY 1, 2014 MINUTES

Dr. Kane requested the discussion on the Tar River Legacy Plan Update (New Business Item B) be corrected from of "Tar-Pamlico Riverkeepers" to "Pamlico-Tar River Foundation." A motion was made by Mr. Burney to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kane and passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Kirby announced the Tar River Legacy Plan Group will be holding a public meeting on July 24, 2014 at the Third Street Community Center. More information may be found on the website at www.tarriverlegacyplan.com
- Dr. Kane informed those present of River Jam that will be held on June 14, 2014 at the Town Commons from 9am to 3pm.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2013-2014 J.H. Rose High School Grant Final Report/Update

Michael Walter, Clinton Todd, and Baylea Williams from J.H. Rose High School were present to give a report on the 2013-2014 Stormwater Management Grant. A PowerPoint presentation was given that detailed the various education modules of the project. It was also reported that a wireless weather station has been purchased that would allow the students to compile onsite weather data for classroom use. The science department is also considering the possibility of installing an onsite BMP plan that would allow students to develop and maintain a rain garden.

A copy of the presentation will be available with the June 2014 meeting minutes.

B. Environmental Survey Update

Dr. Kimmel reported that 95 surveys had been entered into a database for compilation to a final reporting format. Initial results revealed that citizens of Greenville felt concerned about the environment. The results also indicated citizens felt top environmental concerns were water pollution and municipal waste.

Dr. Kimmel will have the final results in a report to be presented to EAC at the August 7, 2014 meeting.

C. 2014-2015 Grant Application Approval

Mr. Anderson began the discussion by noting the two applications received for the 2014-2015 grant cycle. The first application presented was submitted by CM Eppes Middle School Science Department. The project would have 6th grade students study the impact of various vegetation and root growth on soil erosion. The project would also have 8th grade students conducting a study of Greens Mill Run by identifying vegetation, permeable, and impermeable surfaces that could potentially cause flooding at the College Hill Drive and 10th Street intersection.

The second application presented was submitted by Ridgewood Elementary School. The project would have students build a rain garden to improve the quality of water at the school in addition to creating a more aesthetically pleasing environment for the school grounds. The students would be involved in creating, tracking, and maintaining the rain garden.

Dr. Kane commented she felt the application from Ridgewood Elementary School was the best choice at this time for the Stormwater Grant being offered. Mr. Woodley concurred with Dr. Kane and stated the project by Ridgewood Elementary School posed a more concrete outcome for stormwater related activities than those presented by CM Eppes Middle School. Mr. Woodley also noted the various components of the project as submitted by CM Eppes Middle School and felt that the group was attempting to take on too broad of a project for the age group being identified.

As a result of further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Woodley to award the 2014-2015 EAC Grant to Ridgewood Elementary School. It was also determined a letter would be sent to CM Eppes Middle School to provide feedback on the application submitted. A second was made by Mr. Burney to award the grant to Ridgewood Elementary and provide feedback to CM Eppes Middle School. The motion passed unanimously.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. River Park North UST/AST Update

Ms. Kirby gave a brief update on the River Park North UST/AST project. Ms. Kirby stated the City had allowed the Federal Government to drill monitoring wells to monitor the five aquifers at River Park North. A strong smell of petroleum was detected when the first and second well were dug. At this point, the City came in and completed a Comprehensive Site Assessment to determine the extent groundwater and soil contamination. A total of 18 wells were drilled around the site and the results were reported to the State.

Soil contamination was detected and a Notice of Violation was issued to the City by the State approximately two years ago and no action has been taken since that time. The State has reorganized their structure and the violation remained in the surface contamination group. This was based on the fact that a UST had never been found on the property.

The goal at this point is to resample the current wells and determine if there is still soil contamination at the site. If it is determined there is soil contamination, an action plan will need to be established and initiated. An advertisement for bids will be placed for groundwater sampling. Once this has been completed, a more comprehensive plan will be instituted as needed.

B. Plastic Bags Discussion

This item was tabled to the August 7, 2014 meeting.

8. OTHER– FYI

A. Recycling Report

B. EAC Finalized Calendar

9. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – The following items are proposed for the August 7, 2014 meeting:

A. Engagement with Council & Other Commission Discussion (Goal #2)

B. Tar River Legacy – EAC Involvement

C. FROGGS Update

D. Environmental Survey Results Update

E. Plastic Bags Discussion

10. Adjournment –There being no further business to discuss, Dr. Kimmel made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burney and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.