

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
December 4, 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. Michael Behm, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. The following attended the meeting:

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

David Ames
Owen Burney, Jr
David Kimmel

Michael Behm
Emilie Kane
James Woodley

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Demary, Pitt County
Lisa Kirby, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Amanda Boone, City of Greenville
Cheryl Tafoya, City of Greenville

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

New Business Item C3 was tabled to the February 5, 2015 meeting. New Business Item E was tabled to the January 8, 2015 meeting. Mr. Burney made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ames and passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 6, 2014 MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Kimmel to approve the November 6, 2014 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burney and passed unanimously.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. January Meeting Discussion

Dr. Behm informed the group that the next appointed EAC meeting was scheduled to occur on January 1, 2015. Dr. Behm asked if moving the meeting to January 8, 2015 would accommodate members' schedules. A motion was made by Dr. Kimmel to move the meeting to January 8, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burney and passed unanimously.

B. Pitt County Recycling Initiatives

Mr. John Demary, Pitt County's Transfer Station Director, was present to give a presentation on Recycling in Pitt County. Mr. Demary began by stating the North Carolina Department of

Environment and Natural Resources has commended Pitt County on their recycling efforts. Mr. Demary also noted Pitt County had been one of the top 10 counties in North Carolina for recycling efforts over the past 11 years and had been number one, four of those years.

Mr. Demary informed the group that Catawba County has a wood manufacturing company within its jurisdiction and this creates more volume of recycling as compared to Pitt County. Mr. Demary stated there are 14 collection sites in Pitt County and also noted Pitt County's recycling efforts are filtered through the East Carolina Vocational Center (ECVC).

Dr. Ames asked if there were efforts in other NC counties that Pitt County could do to increase recycling. Mr. Demary reported that Pitt County had been recycling cardboard from commercial businesses in Pitt County; however, these businesses began to resale the materials and this has brought the rate of recycling for cardboard down by over 15,000 tons a year. Mr. Demary also stated that commercial facilities and businesses within Pitt County are recycling although their efforts are not reflected in numbers for Pitt County as their recycled materials are not handled by ECVC. Mr. Woodley asked if commercial recycling was being addressed. Mr. Demary stated any commercial entity is encouraged to bring recycling materials to the collection centers.

Dr. Ames also questioned if Pitt County has considered paying citizens for their recycling efforts. Mr. Demary stated the revenue from recycling is paid to ECVC and assists them in paying for their facility, operations, and employees. Mr. Demary also stated he was unaware of any county in North Carolina that pays citizens for recycling. Mr. Demary continued to say the market for recycling materials varies over time and materials and no real profits are realized.

Council Member Blackburn stated there is currently no financial incentive to recycle in Pitt County/City of Greenville, but did ask if the City of Greenville's recycling efforts have changed the dynamics of materials going into the landfill. Mr. Demary stated he believed the dynamics are changing; however, at this time he has no numerical figures to present at this time. Mr. Demary also noted that ECVC would begin recycling electronics in January 2015.

Council Member Blackburn also asked if citizens were unsure if materials could be recycled, should they put it in their recycling containers with plastics being the most questionable. Mr. Demary stated most plastics were being processed through ECVC at this time as there is a bigger market than in past years.

C. Commission Reports

1. Public Transportation and Parking Commission

Dr. Kane reported the duties of the commission are to investigate, review and study the transit needs of the citizens of Greenville, on-street public parking policies throughout the City, and the parking needs of the Uptown area.

Dr. Kane reported discussion items in the meeting were the Greenville Transportation Activity Center (GTAC), Parking Deck, and ridership on the GREAT bus system. It was also noted a meeting in January 2015 would concentrate on the Long Range Master Plan for the bus system that will be presented to the public in February 2015.

Dr. Kane also stated she had a conversation following the meeting with the Commission chair, Ms. Marsha Wyly, and would like to invite her to speak to EAC regarding issues related to water pollution with an emphasis on stormwater.

2. Planning and Zoning Commission

Mr. Burney stated the Commission did not meet in November. Several zoning changes were discussed at the October meeting; however, most did not have environmental impacts to the community. Mr. Burney did state an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance was being considered that would require construction of sidewalks along major thoroughfares, minor thoroughfares, and boulevards in conjunction with the construction of any new development of non-residential developments, mixed-use developments, and multi-family residential developments on existing lots.

3. Neighborhood Advisory Commission

This item was tabled to the February 5, 2015 meeting.

4. Community Appearance Commission

Dr. Behm reported the mission of the commission is to promote, encourage, inform, suggest, and solicit improved community appearance on public and private property.

Dr. Behm stated the commission has given several awards for community appearance, and a biennial appearance award. The commission will also be establishing a subcommittee to evaluate and establish a plan to evaluate the Adopt-A-Street program.

D. Council Presentation

Dr. Behm directed attention to the presentation in the agenda package for the presentation to be given to City Council in January 2015. Mr. Woodley suggested listing the commissions EAC members are interacting with that had the most environmental impact. Council Member Blackburn also suggested adding the environmental survey and the plastics brochure. Dr. Ames suggested adding the forum on the state of the environment as well. Dr. Behm asked for members to provide comments to Mr. Anderson as soon as possible to finalize the presentation for review by EAC at the January 8, 2015 meeting.

E. Stormwater Annual Report

This item was tabled to the January 8, 2015 meeting.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Plastic Bags Presentation

Dr. Ames gave a PowerPoint presentation on plastic bags. The presentation will be available with the December 4, 2014 minutes. The presentation primarily addressed bag habits, throw away products, where is away, and the protection of the environment.

Dr. Ames' recommendation to EAC is to urge City Council, in collaboration with Pitt County, to promote a policy incorporating public awareness, voluntary responses, marketing solutions and regulations to reduce the use of plastic bags in its jurisdiction. Mr. Woodley stated he would like to increase public awareness by encouraging retailers to provide education on the environmental impacts of plastic bags.

B. 2015 Goals – Finalize

Dr. Behm asked EAC members to review the 2014 goals and suggest goals for 2015. Mr. Woodley created a list of proposed 2015 goals. Mr. Woodley will email the list to members for review and the goals will be finalized at the January 8, 2015 meeting. Mr. Woodley introduced a strategic planning framework for consideration as well. The strategic plan could encompass current goals as

well as develop into future goals and would allow future EAC members a glimpse of what EAC has accomplished and what they would like to achieve. Mr. Woodley also informed the group of the Environmental Symposium being held at River Park North on April 20, 2015. Mr. Woodley stated Dr. Eban Bean would be speaking to the students regarding water quality and would like to see EAC partner with River Park North and possibly have a moratorium on plastic use that day as well as a booth with information that EAC has formulated regarding environmental impacts to the community.

C. 2015-2016 EAC Grant Review

Dr. Behm directed attention to the grant attachment. Dr. Behm commented he would like to have the brochure revised to direct more attention to the Kindergarten through 12th (k-12) grade schools. Dr. Behm also asked for clarification on the requirement of projects and/or entities being inside the City limits. Ms. Kirby stated the priority is the funds for the project must be spent within the City limits. For example, an Eagle Scout group outside the City could apply for and be awarded grant funds; however, the physical project must be located with City limits. Dr. Kimmel suggested having a point of contact in the grant package that would be knowledgeable with the requirements of the grant. Dr. Behm volunteered to be that point of contact.

Mr. Woodley asked how the package would be distributed. Ms. Kirby stated EAC would need to brainstorm on what youth groups to target and EAC members were requested to submit names of any additional youth groups who may be eligible for the grants. City staff would assist in obtaining mailing information. Dr. Behm asked when the advertising would begin. Ms. Kirby stated if the package was approved, it would need to be forwarded to the City's Public Information Office for branding and would then be available for distribution. The distribution would be in February and March of 2015 with a deadline date of March 20, 2015.

Dr. Behm made a motion to amend the grant package to call out k-12 schools, further clarify City limits eligibility, and add Dr. Behm as a point of contact for approval. Mr. Woodley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

9. OTHER– FYI

A. Recycling Report

10. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

The following items are proposed for the January 8, 2015 meeting:

A. Elections

B. 2015 Goals & Objectives – Finalize and Implementation

C. Draft Calendar

D. 2014-2015 Grant Update

E. 2015-2016 Grant Marketing Strategies

F. No Idling Resolution

G. Quarterly UST Report

H. 2015 Council Presentation

I. Stormwater Annual Report

11. Adjournment –There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Burney made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kimmel and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.