

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
April 2, 2015

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. James Woodley, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. The following attended the meeting:

1. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS:

Scott Anderson
Owen Burney
David Kimmel

Michael Behm
Emilie Kane
James Woodley

OTHERS PRESENT:

Council Member Marion Blackburn
Amanda Boone, City of Greenville
Amanda Braddy, City of Greenville
Matt Butler, Pamlico-Tar River Foundation

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MARCH 5, 2015 MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Behm to approve the March 5, 2015 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burney and passed unanimously.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Woodley recognized the outgoing members of EAC which included Mr. Owen Burney, Mr. Scott Anderson, and Dr. Michael Behm. Dr. Kimmel presented a certificate of recognition to each member. Council Member Blackburn also acknowledged these members and thanked them for their service to the Commission.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Matt Butler with the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation was present to announce a Rain Garden Workshop will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 8:30am to 12:00pm at the Carol Belk Building on Oglesby Drive in Greenville, NC. The workshop will inform members of the community of the benefits of rain gardens and their potential to protect the Tar-Pamlico River. Mr. Butler invited EAC members to attend this event.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2015-2016 EAC Grant – Review, Discuss, Approve

Ms. Boone announced two applications had been received for the 2015-2016 EAC Grant. Both applications were received from the Love A Sea Turtle (LAST) Organization. The first application presented was for the River Guardian Project and the second was for the Upstream Downstream Connection Summer Camp. Ms. Boone stated she informed LAST the projects would be competing for funding.

Dr. Behm asked how the funding from EAC's grant would benefit the total funding of the project. Ms. Boone reviewed the budget items that LAST is requesting from EAC for both projects. Dr. Kane questioned the in-kind water testing equipment as presented on the River Guardian Project and asked if the funding was for actual equipment or for use of the equipment. Dr. Kane asked how the accountability of the equipment would be identified at the close of the project. Council Member Blackburn stated in reading the application that the equipment was owned by LAST and would be used in monitoring. Ms. Boone also stated the total in-kind contribution would only need to match the 50% required by the grant and that LAST identified the equipment in totality to represent their share in meeting that requirement.

Dr. Behm asked if both projects would proceed without funding from EAC and questioned the tangible value of the EAC grant to enhance the total project. Ms. Boone stated the projects would move forward without EAC funding; however, EAC funding would add education components to the project that may otherwise be lacking. Dr. Kane and Dr. Behm stated they would like to see the specific results of EAC's funding be justified in the final report to EAC. Dr. Behm asked if LAST had identified which project they would prefer to have EAC fund. Ms. Boone stated the Upstream Downstream Connection Summer Camp was the favorite as selected by LAST to be funded.

Dr. Behm made a motion to approve funding of the LAST project for the Upstream Downstream Connection Summer Camp. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kimmel and passed unanimously.

B. Community Appearance Commission Update

Dr. Behm stated the Community Appearance Commission's (CAC) goal is to promote, encourage, inform, suggest, and solicit improved community appearance on public and private property. Mr. Behm reported CAC has a Neighborhood Improvement Grant program that awarded three grants in November 2014 for a total of \$2,250. CAC also gives recognition awards for business appearance and community appearance.

C. Greenville Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission Update

Dr. Kane reported the Greenville Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission's mission is to study and promote the integration of bicycling and walking within the City, study proposed changes and regulations concerning bicycle and pedestrian laws, and to educate and facilitate pedestrians and bicyclists participation in the City.

Dr. Kane stated the Commission is coordinating with Pitt County to connect the County and City greenways and parks. The Commission also announced May will be National Bicycle Month and a Bicycle Ride will be held May 2, 2015. A traffic skills course for bicycle safety will also be held and registration information can be obtained through the Commission chair. The Commission is working on identifying a location for a skateboard park. They are also working on a project which would identify gaps between existing sidewalks and possible funding to eliminate these gaps. Dr. Kane also announced the greenway extensions are currently being discussed. Bids have been received for the greenway west of Charles Blvd to Evans Street and construction will last approximately nine months.

D. Public Transportation & Parking Commission Update

Dr. Kane announced there was no quorum in February and she was unable to attend the March meeting; therefore there was no report given on this Commission.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. River Park North Symposium

Mr. Woodley informed the group the symposium is being held on Monday, April 20, 2015 at River Park North. Love A Sea Turtle is hosting the event and EAC will have a table at the symposium along with the Public Works Department. Two display boards will be provided to highlight previous grant recipient projects. There is a possibility of a third board and Mr. Woodley asked for direction on the third display board. At the direction of members, it was determined the display would highlight the EAC Greenville Environmental Relationships. Handouts on the table would include a summary of the Environmental Survey that was completed, the plastics brochure and the Grant Fact Sheet.

B. State of the Environment Discussion

Mr. Woodley noted the possibility of a symposium for the State of the Environment would need support from City Council, other City commissions, and other entities with a vested interest in the environment to proceed. Mr. Woodley stated funding would be an integral key of the project. Council Member Blackburn stated a draft budget would need to be established and asked if this would be a project that could be supported by the Public Works Department. Ms. Boone commented she was uncertain if this type of event had occurred in the past and would need further guidance from Public Works staff. Dr. Behm suggested establishing a subcommittee to develop a scope for the symposium along with other details and present to the Commission its finding before moving ahead with the project. Mr. Woodley asked if this topic should be tabled to a later meeting with the thoughts of including incoming members. Ms. Boone suggested having a brief discussion at the May meeting and acclimate the newest members of the project and table the discussion of establishing a subcommittee to the August meeting.

C. Plastics Resolution Discussion

Mr. Woodley presented a draft resolution for plastics. Mr. Woodley asked for comments on the resolution and noted two bullets that Dr. Ames had requested to be added. The first would direct City Council to require all City departments to support an education campaign to inform the public on the need to reduce the use of plastic bags. The second request was to engage Pitt County government and other municipalities in Pitt County in the City of Greenville's efforts to make it a county-wide effort. Mr. Woodley stated he had been in contact with Keep Greenville Beautiful and they did not have any objections to the proposed resolution.

Dr. Behm suggested restructuring the resolution to move incentive initiatives before a complete ban or fees request. Council Member Blackburn agreed and also suggested modifying recommendations to a more accepting language. Mr. Woodley will continue to work on the resolution to incorporate the changes as suggested and will present the resolution at the May 7, 2015 meeting.

D. Update on No Idling Resolution

Ms. Boone announced the No Idling resolution has moved forward to City Council in Notes to Council. Council Member Blackburn will read the resolution into record with her comments at the April 6, 2015 Council meeting. Dr. Kane asked what the next steps for Council will be. Council Member Blackburn suggested having the item put on the consent agenda for City Council for discussion. Mr. Anderson recommended obtaining support from the Recreation & Parks Commission. Mr. Woodley will attend that meeting to present the resolution and ask for support. Dr. Kane also suggested obtaining support from the Public Transportation & Parking Commission. Dr. Kane will contact the Chair of that Commission. Council Member Blackburn stated once the letters of support from these Commission were received the resolution should be presented to City Council as a formal discussion.

E. Strategic Plan Update and Discussion

Mr. Woodley stated the Strategic Plan combines environmental directives and various strategic plans into one location which would allow new EAC members the opportunity to review these and connect with EAC missions. Mr. Woodley asked for comments to improve the language of the plan or other concepts, plans, visions, or missions that should be included. Dr. Behm stated having the mission statement and vision statement placed at the beginning of the plan. Mr. Woodley will continue to work on Strategic plan and have it available at the May 7, 2015 meeting.

9. OTHER– FYI

- A. Recycling Report**
- B. Quarterly UST Report**

10. PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

The following items are proposed for the May 7, 2015 meeting:

- A. FROGGS Update**
- B. Solar Presentation by Jon Weaver**
- C. Neighborhood Advisory Commission Update (D. Ames)**
- D. Planning & Zoning Commission Update (J.C. Woodley)**
- E. River Park North Symposium Recap**
- F. State of the Environment Discussion**
- G. Strategic Plan Update**
- H. Plastic Resolution Discussion**
- I. Recycling Report**

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