

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Athens City Building
Tuesday June 6, 2017 5:30 PM

1. Call to order

Elaine Goetz called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM. Members present include Ms. Goetz, Meredith Price-Mullins, Cliff Hamilton, Stefan Gleissberg, Kristin Rice, and Paul Logue. Members absent include Richard Linscott, Ed Newman, and Council representative Jennifer Cochran. Quorum was established. Paul Logue recorded minutes.

2. Disposition of Minutes

The minutes from May 2 2017 were reviewed by the commission. With no corrections, changes, or additions noted, Ms. Rice made a motion to approve the minutes from May 2, 2017 as submitted. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

3. Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting date is July 4. City offices will be closed in for the Independence Day holiday. The commission decided to cancel the July meeting and reconvene at the regular meeting scheduled for August 1, 2017. Mr. Gleissberg reported that he will not be in attendance for that meeting.

5. New Business

A. Upgrade Ohio EV mechanic support—Mat Roberts contacted the commission regarding a letter of support that is being drafted by Upgrade Ohio to encourage Taylor Nissan to add an electric vehicle mechanic to their staff so that Athens area Leaf owners can have vehicles serviced in Athens instead of driving to Columbus. Elaine motioned to add the commission to the signatories. Kristin seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approving the motion. Mr. Logue will let Mr. Roberts know that the commission supports this effort.

B. #ClimateMayors—the commission discussed the recent decision by the President to withdraw the US from the Paris Climate Agreement. Many mayors and city councils around the country are organizing to express their continued commitment towards meeting the goals in the Paris Agreement and to work towards local carbon reduction. Commission members want to check in with the Mayor and Council regarding a resolution and joining this effort. Commissioners discussed the need for teeth and commitments on this. Ms. Price-Mullins made a motion to ask council to adopt a resolution on this and to ask Mayor Patterson to join the Mayors National Climate Agenda and other such efforts. Elaine seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved. Paul will contact Council rep Chris Fahl and Mayor Patterson regarding these efforts.

4. Old Business

A. Zero Waste—Paul reported that this is moving forward and contract is under review. Meredith was pleased to see recycling at West State Park and Highland. Kristin suggested adding recycling between the fields 1 and 2 as the garbage can there is filled with recyclables.

B. Sustainability Plan implementation protocol/updates—commission discussed what Elaine and Paul have drafted. Paul will email draft to the commission for further review at the August meeting.

6. Announcements and Updates

Stefan reported on coal mining concerns in Trimble area. An application has been filed for an open pit mine in northern Athens County. Funding for stream remediation is being cut at the same time. This mine could impact the water quality Johnson Run. Meredith reported that Johnson Run drains into the Sunday Creek which drains to the Hocking above Athens. Stefan wondered if a council resolution is appropriate here or if the city wellhead protection team has concerns about this.

Stefan discussed “rolling coal” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolling_coal) and how some cities and states have outlawed this activity because of the pollution it creates. Kristin suggested it could be addressed the same way engine breaking is illegal due to noise issues. Stefan stated he will research this further and report back to the commission.

7. Adjournment

Cliff motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kristin seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue