

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Athens City Building
Tuesday September 12, 2017 5:30 PM

1. Call to order— Richard Linscott called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM. Members present include Richard, Kristin Rice, Stefan Gleissberg, Ed Newman, Elaine Goetz, and Meredith Price-Mullins. Cliff Hamilton was absent. Quorum was established. Paul Logue recorded minutes. Guests included Mira Leibovich, Jessica Dalzell, Zack Hadley, Lauren Bennett, Sophia Lanza, Megan Malyj, Victoria Shira, Rachael Scheatzle, Dani Niziolek, Aimee Delach, and Gerika Logan.

2. Disposition of Minutes—the minutes from August 2017 were reviewed by the commission. With no additions, corrections, or changes noted Richard moved to adopt the minutes as submitted. Ms. Rice seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of approval.

3. Next Meeting Date

October 3, 2017 at City Hall 5:30 PM.

5. New Business

A. Comprehensive plan—the advisory committee has a spot for a sustainability commissioner to sit. Rep would serve the plan and report back to the commission. Mr. Newman, Ms. Goetz, and Ms. Price-Mullins are interested and will decide who will serve in the next few days. They will report back to Mr. Logue.

4. Old Business

A. Zero Waste Audit update—Paul reported that the audits and dumpster dives are complete. The Rural Action staff is working on final report and recommendations. Ed noted that some resources may be needed to address implementation and other city buildings should be completed as well. Kristin stated that some of the recommendations are likely replicable at other city buildings.

B. Sustainability Plan implementation protocol/updates—Richard stated that we need a place to confirm which version of the plan people are using—city web site or Dropbox files. Paul will make sure that Mr. Gleissberg and Kristin have access to the Dropbox folder. Richard will create a change log and made the few changes that have been identified already. Paul will send protocol to all commissioners along with the draft minutes.

C. Plastic Bag tracking—Meredith talked with an Athens High teacher about a service project for her students. Elaine suggested maintaining a list of potential projects for student projects such as this or greenhouse gas emissions. Erin Sykes at Rural Action may be able to offer some assistance on this from the community conversations they hosted a few years ago. Paul will get the notes from those meetings.

Kristin suggested we start by understanding the size of the problem by contacting store managers and see if they will give us data. Guests present discussed some ideas including distribution of branded bags, signs at entry to stores, clerk training. Paul will get a copy of resolution to commission. Richard will draft a letter on this and distribute to the commission for the October meeting.

5. Announcements and Updates

Elaine reported that she is working on pollution prevention week announcements for Sept 18-24. Info will be going on local radio, OU Compass, OU sustainability page. Ms. Delach suggested they provide information at the Pawpaw Fest.

Aimee asked for a Solsmart update. Paul reported that he and the city code director are working with Sarah Conley-Ballew on this. Ms. Conley-Ballew has presented her initial findings and recommendations to the city planning commission and more information can be found on a Solsmart page on the city's website.

6. Adjournment

With all agenda items satisfied and no additional business for the agenda Richard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue