Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Athens City Building
Wednesday December 5, 2018 6:30 PM

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1. Call to order—Chairman Richard Linscott called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Members present included Mr. Linscott, Aimee Delach, Stefan Gleissberg, Caitlin Garrity, Kristin Rice, Paul Logue, Sam Crowl, and Elaine Goetz. Members absent included Ed Newman and Jessica Dalzell. Quorum was established.

2. Disposition of Minutes—the minutes from November 2018 were reviewed by the commission. Mr. Linscott made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Garrity seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Next Meeting Date—Mr. Gleissberg made a motion to move the January regular meeting to January 16 at 6:30 PM. Ms. Delach seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion was approved.

4. Old Business

A. Action items/projects for 2019 and beyond (All)—Discussion on solar energy through the SOPEC resources. The commission is interested in encouraging the school district to work towards zero energy strategies for new construction. Mr. Crowl will communicate with SOPEC on the commission's behalf.

The commission discussed implementation of the plan and implementation strategies. Priorities are working with SOPEC on schools (Sam, Elaine, Paul); biodiversity (Stefan, Aimee, Ed, Caitlin); 30 mile meal (Caitlin, Cliff, Kristin); and information dashboard (Richard).

B. Draft biodiversity section for plan—Stefan submitted a draft version of this section for the commission to review. Richard suggested ID of actionable goals to get some baseline data if none exists. Aimee suggested a bio-blitz event in 2019.

5. New Business

A. US EPA Climate report (all)—Aimee suggested joining "we are still in" and interfacing with natural hazard mitigation plan. Paul will find the Athens County Hazard Mitigation Plan and share. Elaine discussed costs of converting OU to non-fossil fuels.

B. East State Street/OU land planning—Stefan reported on a part of real estate behind the community center. He and Phil Cantino are meeting with Mayor Patterson to discuss concerns they hold about opening it up.

6. Announcements and Updates

A. Council updates (Crowl)—Sam reported on bike path connection to University Estates. Environmental review required move of preferred route. This added about $100K to the costs. The Richland Ave tunnel construction is scheduled next summer. There is a public open house on Stimson Ave improvements from 3-6PM on Tuesday Dec 11.

B. Thesis project (Dalzell)—Paul reported that mail surveys went out to 500 random utility billing customers. More than 120 completed surveys have been returned. Postcard reminders were mailed this week to encourage more surveys to be returned. Jessica will be working with this during Spring semester.

C. Wayne NF forest planning (Delach)—Aimee reports that working groups have been created for each of the 3 units including biodiversity, water quality, air quality, recreation, minerals leasing (technical/invite only), sustainable economies, forest health, and climate. All comments from these groups are due by 1/2/19.

7. Adjournment—With all agenda items addressed and no further business to attend Richard motioned to adjourn the meeting and Aimee seconded the motion. All members voted in in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:42PM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue