

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday November 3, 2021 6:00 PM
Athens City Building
8 East Washington Street, 3rd Floor
Athens, OH 45701

1. Call to order – Chair Aimee Delach called the meeting to order at 6:05PM. Members Sarah Conley Ballew, Megan Westervelt, Paul Logue, Aimee Delach, and Jasmine Facun, and Ed Newman were present. Quorum was established. Members absent included Sam Crawl, Megan Almeida, Elaine Goetz, and Austin Babrow. Member Stefan Gleisberg has resigned from the board due to moving to Wisconsin. Guests included Grant Molnar, Ava Evans, Eitan Palmer, Katelyn Rousch, and Ben Nichols.

2. Disposition of Minutes—Jasmine Facun motioned to approved the minutes as submitted. Megan Westervelt seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The minutes were approved.

3. Next Meeting Date – December 1, 2021 6PM

4. Old Business

A. Biodiversity chapter—council adoption—Aimee Delach presented to Council last week. A first reading was held this past Monday. Sarah Conley Ballew asked about tracking and discussed the pollinator habitat planning for the solar install at Community Center. Bee City program also has detail on this. Sarah discussed a vegetative management plan for this area. Some site prep will be needed for prior to the solar install. Discussion on who is managing the solar pollinator part of the contract. Facun asked about the city’s approach to helping people without homes who may be living there.

5. New Business—There was no new business.

6. Announcements and Updates

A. Baileys Trail System—Jasmine reported that a Build Back Better grant application underway. She mentioned that redevelopment is underway for the old Chauncey school to open a brewery and other amenities in there.

B. Hocking River—Paul Logue discussed some preliminary work that is being done including a request to the US Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a study of the Hocking River channel project. Logue said the city administration is interested in looking at safety, flash flooding at Coates Run along Richland Avenue, improving the environmental aspects of the channel, and considering recreational uses for the area. He commented that this is in very early stages and no agreement or contract for services has been established at this time. He met with owners at White’s Mill to discuss their concerns and plans as well. Logue stated that public engagement would be part of the process if a study moves forward. Megan Westervelt expressed interest in developing a visual storytelling component to this.

C. Ed Newnan reported that Rural Action is having a medical equipment supply donation event at Community Center this Sat from 10-2.

7. Adjournment—With all agenda items satisfied and no further business Delach motioned to adjourn the meeting. Westervelt seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18PM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue