



AGENDA
ATHENS ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024 AT 6:00 PM

- 1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum**
- 2. Disposition of Minutes**
 - February 7, 2024
- 3. Business Items**
 - "Leave the Leaves" presentation
 - Earth Day plans
 - Move-out plans
- 4. Announcements & Other Business**
 - Next meeting: April 3, 2024
- 5. Executive Session**
- 6. Adjournment**

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

7 February 7, 2024

City Hall, First Floor Conference room

Present: Aimee, Ed, Elaine, Molly Jo, Sean

Guests: George, Angel, Shane, Jacob, Sonia, Will, Crissa Cummings

Agenda:

- Call to order
- Introductions (Commission + Guests)
- Disposition of Minutes
- Overview of Commission + Sustainability Plan (and 2023 updates to plan)
- Council of Governments updates
- Other Items of Business
- Next Meeting Date – March 6, 2024
- Adjournment

Call to order 6:00 pm

Introductions: (Commission + Guests)

Commission: Aimee Delach, Sean Pierce, Elaine Goetz, Molly Jo Stanley, Ed Newman

Guests: George (second year at OU in Environmental Bio); Angel (Communications Intern City of Athens); Shane Benton (Rural Action); Jacob - OU grad; Crissa Cummings (AHRC), Sonya (FOA, OU student, lifelong Athens County resident); Will, lifelong Athens county resident)

Disposition of Minutes

Sean motions to approve; Elaine seconds; all in favor (approved)

Overview of Commission & Sustainability Action Plan (Aimee)

Report // Updates to plan (December 2023)

Sent to City Council December 2023 – Where is this document publicly available? Angel to follow up; publish to E&S page

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

2019 carbon tax

Solar array ribbon cutting (February 8th; 3:00 pm near Community Center)

Questions from guests:

City goals vs. University?

Division of goals and reporting

Water statistics may need to be revisited?

What is our population status? (skewed census data)

Upcoming Community Events:

Ohio Canid Center “Walk with Wolves”
(March 30th; 12:00 pm – on OU campus)
Flyers are up on campus
<http://www.ohiocanidcenter.com/>

Commission openings and interested applicants

Interested in joining: Shane, Jacob

We will continue gathering resumes and letters of interest

Commission submit recommendations at March meeting (4 seats to fill, likely)

Future plans:

Work with Angel to update E&S page to provide more helpful information / public resources

COG updates

How can the commission be supportive?

Clarification – Solid Waste District has voted to enter into conversation with interested parties, not to create a COG

Athens Administration has expressed interest in entering into conversation to join COG; City under impression that the Solid Waste District not ready to meet with City of Athens

AHSWD attempting to schedule meeting with Athens County Commissioner

Eliason and Director Stone

Timeline: ASAP (in order for AHRC to keep trucks that serves the City of Athens, this needs to happen by June)

AHSWD Resolution:

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/24356848-ahswd-resolution-1-2024?responsive=1&title=1> Resolution 2024-1 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District is to plan, manage and educate the public to reduce, recycle, repair and compost diverting as much waste as possible; WHEREAS, the District elects to be a founding member of a regional council of governments with the core purpose on a regional scale, to implement solid waste collection, reuse, recycling processing and safe disposal related to solid waste, landfill diversion, while creating a more circular economy in order to create a cleaner, safer, and better place to live in the southeast Ohio. NOW, THEREFORE, The Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District Board authorizes the Director and a member of the A-HSWD Board to negotiate with other government entities an agreement and by-laws to form a regional council of Government (Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code) for this purpose.

Proposed E&S resolution:

The Athens Environment & Sustainability Commission supports the creation of a Council Of Governments (COG) – with the core purpose to implement solid waste collection, processing and diversion – and urges the City of Athens Administration to enter into a timely and productive negotiation with the Athens Hocking Solid Waste District (AHSWD) and other relevant entities.

Sean motions to approve

Elaine seconds

All in favor – resolution approved

Move-Out

Preparations – outreach to the community and campus partners

More to come!

Next meeting:

March 6th, 2024

6:00 pm

Agenda Items:

New members

Leave the Leaves

OU Move Out

Molly Jo motions to adjourn

Aimee seconds

All in favor – meeting adjourned (7:06 pm)