

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

June 7, 2023 6:00 p.m.

City Hall, First Floor Conference room

Present: Aimee, Beth, Ed, Elaine, Sam, Molly Jo

Guest: Morgan (WOUB)

Agenda:

- Call to order & welcome guests
- Disposition of Minutes
- Next Meeting Date – July 5, 2023
- Old Business
- Commission Bylaws
- OU Move Out recap
- Rodenticides
- Backyard Chickens
- Dark Skies
- Data Collection
- Fire Department & Water Usage
- New Business
 - Athens County Emergency Management Plan (EMP) revision and "community climate conversations"
 - USFS Advanced Proposed Rulemaking on Climate Forests / Mature & Old-Growth Forests
- Announcements and Updates
- Adjournment

Call to order 6:06

Minutes:

[Commission Bylaws](#)

Sam met with Chris Knisely - can adjust policies on officers, term limits, etc. (some language is already in municipal code, which could be changed, but would be a more involved/difficult process)

6 meetings annually is the rule; we could look schedule/recess for December (and July) –

Assignment- Please review bylaws and send changes/edits to Sam by Summer Solstice (June 21)

Vote next meeting

Elaine going on sabbatical (!) – coming to end of her third three-year term; will take a break at that time 5/31/24

Approval of May minutes: Ed moves to approve; MollyJo seconds - all approved

MoveOUT Recap:

Wins: Billing for recycled mattresses was smooth internally; not certain how it translates externally, but it was helpful and could be built upon next year

Need to check in with Housing Hotlink, who did not end up following up on engagement as intended

Now in June, able to take incremental measures to prepare for next year

Aimee, Elizabeth, and Sam helped support food pickup/capturing (were able to get recycling bins from the City – acquired and cleaned 200); Campus Recycling donated use of power washer

CampusRecycling, Rural Action ZWI, and E&S Commission is a strong partnership!

Coordinating/collaborating with property managers had successes, and can be built upon for next year - able to target specific residences where it was known that tenants were leaving

Pleasantly surprised by cooperation from residences -

Didn't have a lot of food capturing set up, but those that were went well

How to engage with landlords throughout the year and retain them consistently to increase contact and success in future years

Reach out to Student Services at OU to increase communications with students?

Each year will always be unique, but it is always worth trying

Campus Recycling shared information about mattresses in their newsletter/website

A lot of students who are only leaving for the summer are still discarding items - connect with international students to provide materials?

Rain on Saturday night rendered some materials irrecoverable

Recovery Rate:

338 pounds of food

74 mattress

Athens ReUse had stations for dropoff, which was a success

5-year plan for success

Funding & Future Plans:

IRA Funding - Buckeye Hills / Appalachian Regional Commission, orchestrating recycling and infrastructure grant (BH/ARC providing engineers and consultation) \$70 million in funding for aggregate program

[Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies - Appalachian Regional Commission \(arc.gov\)](https://www.arc.gov/)

Possibility to expand out into the region, pulling in partners and waste districts historically lacking resources for involvement

Southeast Ohio 6-county waste district (Meigs, Gallia, Vinton; Ross-Fayette; Lawrence-Scioto etc.)

Waste Recovery, Economic and Workforce Development opportunity is significant.

Letter of support from commission?

McKee Recycling (New Marshfield/Waterloo TWP) are rising stars – equipment, trucks, rollout equipment, drive, and commitment to environmental practices is impressive; looking to develop C&D recovery center

Rodenticides: Delay until future meeting

Backyard Chickens: Delay until future meeting

Dark Skies: Katelyn shared research

OU adopted new standards on lighting (Sam to share resolution from OU with Chris)

Follow-up with Chris K. to determine next steps / goals

Data Collection: Athens Sustainability Action Plan (ASAP)

Original idea was for Commission to do data collection, rather than outsourcing and compiling inconsistent/inaccurate data

Last year, the group did very well - could follow the same procedure for this year, while finding strategy for streamlining to keep it a light lift and consistent moving forward

Elaine acquired Energy data

Each person had a section to compile and report out

Some aspects of the plan have difficult to obtain or irrelevant metrics

Possible partners /outsourcing:

PCFO - Greenhouse Gas Inventory; is it possible to get grant funding to have them do it again?

People for Bikes - bike ratings (consistent across the country and from year to year)

State of Ohio has transportation data - module to calculate GG emissions that we can get access to?

Miles driven per county is one of the data points

OU has access to city vehicle data

Likely need to revise metrics to reflect current data available; metrics related to GGI; organizational partners with access to date; etc.

We no longer have the 30 mile meal data, but what metrics do we have to include to capture our local food system data?

Athens County Emergency Management Plan (EMP) revision and "community climate conversations" - hosted at Athens Public Library (Aimee gave most recent, Don Gossel gave one, Molly Jo / OEC gave the first (Municipal Cost of Climate Change)

Community Outreach Listening Plans – Aimee, Beth, and MollyJo to lead

Divide into Issue Areas / Categories

EPA and others have frameworks

Repeat Climate presentations throughout the county

Share recordings with Commission members (when available)

USFS Public Comment Period (MOG) – July 20 deadline

Draft Commission comments

Aimee and MollyJo to share out their comments with group for review/revision

Fire Department // Water Usage

There is a valve that will channel the water appropriately; concern is this hasn't/won't be done -

Is the valve an effective solution? What kind of soap is being used? What solutions are possible

Steve Adams - Stormwater Management employee (Elaine mentioned notice of violation several years ago) – *Ed to send photos to Steve and identify impetus for notice of violation to stormwater code*

– July meeting: Sustainability Plan (ASAP) Deep Dive (& USFS Comment Letter for approval) —

At 7:11 Elaine moves to adjourn; Beth seconds

Meeting adjourned