

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Athens City Hall
Tuesday April 8, 2014

A regular meeting of the Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission was held at Athens City Hall on April 8, 2014.

1. Call to order:

Cliff Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5:20 PM. Members present were Cliff Hamilton, Ed Newman, and Paul Logue. Members absent were Markie Miller, Lori Burchett, and Chris Fahl. Guests included Ray Leard and council representative Jennifer Cochran.

2. Disposition of Minutes:

The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed. Ed motioned to approve the minutes. Cliff seconded. All voted in favor.

3. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for May 6 at 5:15 PM. Paul will check on alternative meeting sites due to elections.

4. Old Business

a. Commission Membership -- Liz and Markie have resigned from the commission. The commission has two seats to fill. Markie was a representative from the OU Office of Sustainability and the director there has recommended Tess Phinney to take Markie's place. Tess should be at the May meeting. Jennifer said she knows of someone who is looking to get involved with sustainability issues as well. New members are to be appointed by Council. The commission also discussed asking Council to expand the commission from 5 to 7 citizens and allow 2 of the 7 to be non-city residents. The city's arts commission already does this. Paul will check with Chris Fahl about this.

b. Sustainability/Climate action plan—this was tabled due to attendance and changes with commission membership

5. New Business

Ray Leard from the Compost Exchange presented to the commission. Ray wants to find 50-100 households in Athens to pilot curbside collection of compost. Summary handouts distributed. Ray has presented this to council in late March as well. Ed thinks this process will make for cleaner diversion of recyclables in general. Ray currently collects from about 50 local businesses and also households through a pickup program at the farmer's markets on Saturdays. At scale the current recycling packer trucks and trailers don't have room for organics. Organics possibly collected with yard wastes through city process. Ray estimates that a family of 4 can fill a 5 gallon bucket weekly. 5 gallons is approximate 25 lbs. Plus yard waste. The pilot would be 3-6 months long for 100 households. Ed suggests 2nd Street

on West Side. Cliff asked about metrics methods—how to quantify the amount of waste diverted. Ray isn't sure how to do this yet. Ed thinks mandatory system needed to make it work. The commission thought that the West, Near East, and Far East side neighborhoods would be a good fit for a pilot. Ray will consider this and do further evaluation.

6. Updates

Ed reported that plastic bags are accepted at curbside recycling in the city now. He will give an update on changes with the recycling system at the May meeting.

7. Adjournment

Ed moved to adjourn the meeting. Cliff seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.