Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Athens City Building
Tuesday July 8, 2014

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1. Call to order:

Cliff Hamilton called the order at 5:20 PM. Members present include Cliff, Ed Newman, Jennifer Cochran, Meredith Price-Mullins, Tess Phinney, and Paul Logue. Lori Burchett reported her absence in advance. Richard Linscott was a guest.

2. Disposition of Minutes:

Meredith motioned to approve the minutes. Ed seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approval of the minutes.

3. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting is scheduled for July 8 at 5:15 PM at City Hall.

4. Old Business

a. Compost pilot—the pilot has 40 members right now. Ray is looking for more people to get involved.

b. Sustainability/Climate action plan—Paul distributed the draft outline and survey to the commission. Commission members are asked to review and comment.

c. Commission membership—Lori has resigned from the commission and is off to new endeavors in Idaho. The commission is grateful for her involvement and wishes her the best. Lori served as a city resident but the commission discussed the possibility of having the new county planner take her position if that person lives in the city. The position is currently open for any city resident.

d. Plastic bag ordinance—Jennifer is still researching this issue.

5. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

6. Updates

a. Recycling changes (Ed)—Ed is on the board of the Athens/Hocking Recycling Center. Ed gave some background for the new members on changes with solid waste and recycling district in 2013. Plastic bags are now being diverted from landfill through curbside recycling. The center is taking more materials for recycling including additional plastics and plastic bags. A “mini-MRF” has been built to separate

recyclables from university and drop sites. Other sites are being considered to relocate the center to make expansion possible. They are also accepting some scrap metals and have roll offs for yard waste. The center sees recyclables as a resource that can be used as an asset for local economic development. Collection upgrades are being considered for efficiencies and better methods of collection to reduce safety risks for employees. City and OU are crucial partners to maintain and expand the system. Hocking County commissioners have recently signed on to the RA Zero Waste plan. The landfill is privately owned. Ed would like to see the center moving to single stream, more mechanization, and resources reused locally.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.