Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Athens City Building
Thursday December 4, 2014

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1. Call to order:

Cliff Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM Members present include Cliff, Tess Phinney, Paul Logue, Ed Newman, and Meredith Price-Mullins. Members reporting absent were Richard Linscott, Jennifer Cochran, Emily Carnahan, and Mat Roberts.

2. Disposition of Minutes:

The minutes from November 4, 2014 were read. No corrections were noted. Meredith motioned to approve the minutes. Tess seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

3. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 6 at 5:30 PM at City Hall. Tess will not be able to make the meeting. There will be a work session on Wednesday Dec 10 at 5:30 PM at Cliff's office. Paul cannot make the work session.

4. Old Business

a. Sustainability/Climate action plan

Economy—Getting kids involved with local environmental work—this was identified in the public meeting and had 5 votes. The commission is unsure how to interpret this. School gardening, recycling, and community service could be ways to do this.

Local currencies should be researched—this adds to the buy local focus.

Can a carbon tax be initiated at a local level? Paul wondered if there's a strategy to "tax" city vehicles to move towards carbon neutrality. Tess stated that the City and plan needs to state a date to achieve carbon neutrality. OU has an energy dashboard on line.

Barter and trade could tie into local currencies.

Develop policies to encourage buying local, creating, and supporting local business. Ed suggested zero waste, conservation, and alternative energy as a strategy to achieve this.

Education seminars from local sustainability related businesses (education is a common thread throughout the workshop).

Energy—Alternative energy providers in the community should come together. Ed suggested organizing a symposium on this—James Hill at the library is already doing this. More solar, incentivize alternative energy, and conservation strategies (efficiency, shutting off lights, powering down computers, AC/furnace temps, blinds etc.) were key themes. Tess suggested working with kids to educate adults on conservation.

5. New Business

Meredith has a friend at Tufts University involved an alternative energy conference and is looking for speakers. Meredith was wondering if there were any academics or others in the Athens area to recommend. Paul will forward this info to everyone.

6. Adjournment

Cliff motioned to adjourn the meeting. Tess seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.