Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Athens City Hall, First Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, April 3, 2013

A regular meeting of the Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission was held in the first floor conference room at Athens City Hall at 5:15 PM on April 3, 2013.

1. Call to Order

Cliff Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5:40. Members present include Cliff Hamilton, Liz Rhodes, Markie Miller, Ed Newman, and Paul Logue. Chris Fahl and Bernhard Debatin were absent. Mayor Wiehl was present.

2. Disposition of Minutes

Minutes from February 2013 minutes were discussed. Ed motioned to approve, Cliff seconded. All voted in favor. March minutes were distributed. A question was raised as to if they need to be approved since March meeting lacked quorum. March minutes were not brought up for a motion to approve.

3. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be held May 8, 2013—5:15 PM at City Hall. Markie will be out of town most of summer. Cliff will check on Bernard's availability over the summer.

4. Old Business

a. Recycling—Mayor Wiehl attended solid waste policy meeting on Monday, April 1. Consultant stated that MRF was feasible based on market demand for commodities and collection fees. County commissioners for Athens and Hocking make final decision. City and OU need to be involved for long term contracts (3+ years) to make it successful. Meeting was well attended with county and city elected officials, union representatives, waste haulers, AZOWI (Appalachian Ohio Zero Waste Initiative) organizers. Options discussed included a local MRF, a hybrid transfer station to send to Columbus and recycling collection in single or dual stream. Collections would be put out to bid. Plan has 3 goals—access to recycling sites, percentage of recycling, or combination of both.

Mayor is concerned about single stream due to educational opportunity in requiring separation. Mayor thinks MRF letter from the commission would be helpful.

b. Web site—City can host documents and links to site. Need site and content. AZOWI is working on putting together package on information on where recyclables can go. Site—how to's, links to events, general resource, conservation tips.

5. New Business

a. Mayor discussed waste water treatment upgrades, sewer expansion to township areas.

b. General discussion on board direction—where should it go. Commission can ask Council if they want issues addressed. Discussion on protecting water supply and looking at forming coalition to protect Hocking River watershed. Composting program? Mayor recommends coming up with ideas and then present them to council to see what interest there is in working on it.

6. Assignments for Next Meeting

Ed will inventory planning documents to see what needs to be done and what was done. Look at city, county, and university plans. Commission will discuss priorities.

Cliff will put together presentation for council and get on council committee agenda. Paul will help with council agenda.

7. Adjournment

Markie moved to adjourn. Cliff seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.