

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Athens City Hall, First Floor Conference Room
Tuesday, September 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 September 3, 2013.

1. Call to Order

Cliff Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5:18. Members present include Cliff Hamilton, Markie Miller, Lori Burchett, Ed Newman, and Paul Logue. Chris Fahl and Liz Rhodes were absent.

2. Disposition of Minutes

The minutes for the months of July and August were reviewed. Markie moved to accept the minutes. Ed seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approval.

3. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Tuesday October 1 at 5:15 PM at City Hall. Meetings are being moved to first Tuesdays though Fall semester to accommodate schedules.

4. Old Business

a. web site—Markie set up a FB page for the commission. It can be found by searching “Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission” on FB. Markie has put up some initial content. 38 people have “liked” it so far. Paul suggested using the page as a way to communicate general sustainability info.

5. New Business

a. Sustainability/Climate Action Plans—Markie reviewed some plans. She suggested that a plan should focus on links between human behavior and climate change. A plan should have a “call to action” section for readers. Markie also discussed “path dependency” as something to avoid. Include section on natural greenhouse gas effects and human exaggerated gases. Plan should have a vulnerability assessment. Commission needs to have consensus on how to group the 3 legs of sustainability. Trends included energy efficiency, waste stream, and ecosystem recovery. Also mentioned was public health, cleanliness, fitness, and composting. Sustainability plans are often criticized for missing the public health component. Creative economies can also be a feature to include. Complete streets were mentioned. Social justice in an important reason to do this kind of plan. Cultural planning—sensitivity and respect to local culture. Education and awareness needs to be included.

Markie suggested looking at Oberlin, OH plan as a good start. Here’s a link:

<http://www.cityofoberlin.com/images/omlps/2013%20cap%20online%20pdf.pdf>

Lori provided the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement Climate Action Handbook (Paul will send document with minutes).

Current movement is moving towards local decisions and ownership of issues. Focus on reduction of emissions and how to do it—land use, transportation, etc.

Lori distributed a draft outline. City has baseline data from 2009-10 on city buildings and vehicles. The baseline data doesn't include private properties and OU. OU has done a CAP and sustainability plan. Lori recommended looking at Piedmont, CA and Ann Arbor, MI as examples. Louisville, KY land use recommendations were a good example. Policy recommendations for changes including recommending city code language. Lori recommends starting with a CAP and working towards a sustainability plan once CAP is completed. Lori will provide more before next meeting.

6. Assignments for next Meeting

Paul will provide baseline data information.

Lori will provide more on CAPs

Commission members should help with sustainability content for FB page and invite people to the page.

Documents should be added to Dropbox folder.

7. Adjournment

Lori motioned to adjourn. Markie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.