

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Athens Community Center
Wednesday, October 31, 2012

A regular meeting of the Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission was held in the conference room of the Athens Community Center at 5:30 PM on October 31, 2012.

1. Call to Order

Chris Fahl called the regular meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Commission to order at 5:38 PM.

Members present were Markie Miller, Liz Rhodes, Cliff Hamilton, Bernhard Debatin, Ed Newman, Chris Fahl, and Paul Logue.

2. Disposition of Minutes

There are no minutes.

3. Discussion

This is the first meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Commission. Members introduced themselves around the table. Chris Fahl is the planning and development chair of Athens City Council. Paul Logue is the planner for the city of Athens. Markie Miller is a first year graduate student in environmental sciences at Ohio University and is involved with the OU ecohouse and office of sustainability. Liz Rhodes is an employee at the Village Bakery with a background in philosophy and has interests in sustainability. Cliff Hamilton is an environmental engineer at Ohio University. Bernard Debatin is a faculty member at OU's Scripps School of Journalism. Ed Newman is retired waste and recycling manager at OU.

Chris Fahl discussed housekeeping issues that need to be resolved at this meeting including electing a chair, setting a fixed day and time for regular meetings, and minutes. Paul Logue agreed to record the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Commission. Meetings are tentatively set to be held on the last Wednesday of every month at 5:30 PM on the third floor of the Athens City Building in city council chambers. The City Building address is 8 East Washington Street, Athens, 45701.

Materials were distributed to the commission. Documents include a copy of the ordinance that established the commission, a copy of the 2011 report of the comprehensive plan review advisory commission, and relevant sections from the city comprehensive plan. Paul Logue will provide the members with some examples of other communities' environmental commissions and their roles, links to the city bicycle and pedestrian plan, wellhead protection plan, solid waste plan, and information on other Athens city commissions.

The commission members discussed general points of interest and issues that they may want to consider working on. Issues included groundwater and drinking water quality, wellhead protection, recycling, green space preservation, solid waste, graffiti, reducing consumption, ways to incentivize behavior changes, air quality, landscape design, native vegetation, walkability, and bicycling.

Members agreed to review the materials that were distributed and consider what role they see this commission having within the city administration, legislation, and community.

Cliff Hamilton nominated himself for chair of the commission. Ed Newman seconded. All voted in favor. Chris Fahl will provide the information to city council for official appointments.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28 at 5:30 PM on the third floor of Athens City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.