Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Athens City Hall, First Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, December 5, 2012

A regular meeting of the Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission was held in the first floor conference room at Athens City Hall at 5:30 PM on December 5, 2012.

1. Call to Order

Cliff Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Members present include Cliff Hamilton, Markie Miller, Liz Rhodes, Ed Newman, Bernard Debatin, Chris Fahl, and Paul Logue. All members present. Mayor Paul Wiehl attended as a guest.

2. Disposition of Minutes

The minutes of the October 31, 2012 regular meeting were approved by the commission. All voted in favor.

3. Discussion

Mayor Wiehl provided an update on the solid waste/recycling issues in the district. There is a MRF feasibility study underway. Hocking County may be coming around to consider other options. OU and Athens city are the 2 largest waste producers in the district. The city is holding a hazardous waste drive during the last week in April 2013 and may try to get other townships involved. Kyle O'Keefe at Rural Action is working on the "Zero Waste Initiative". The goal of the initiative is do reduce waste in the region and value add to waste that is created by finding sustainable methods of reuse and recycling into new products or technologies.

The group discussed possible roles in environment and sustainability issues at the city including:

- updating website
- spreading information
- establishing policies for recycling
- drafting legislation on pollution, lighting, transportation standards
- anything relating to sustainability
- education awareness with off campus housing

Bernard commented on water issues such as protecting water quality. C8 contamination in other parts of Athens County identified as known risk. Also possibility of finding ways to incentivize behavioral change—create pedestrian zones, remove some auto parking and add bike parking.

Chris suggested picking a small project to start with so the commission can gain some short term wins while looking towards long term strategies.

The commission discussed establishing some goals. Initial goals included:

- Establish a city sustainability plan
- "love your creek" or "love your sewer" campaign
- Educational components including better signage around the city
- Adopt-a-block campaign
- Funding and grants
- Forming partnerships with landlords for energy efficiency
- Adoption of viewshed legislation

Markie addressed some observations from a student's perspective—improved signage on and around bikepath (eg: *Kroger 2 miles*), cigarette butts are everywhere on campus and uptown but there are very few ashtrays, "respect our city" campaign, need to focus on behavior and infrastructure.

Cliff outlined a few general ideas for the commission to think about for next meeting:

- Define sustainability for our purposes
- What is needed to compete for grants?
- How do we interface with the OU office of sustainability

Ed stated that he will do a "brain dump" of his thoughts before the next meeting.

Homework assignments for members—everyone think of 2 small projects that we can get done in a day, bring a definition of sustainability.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 5:30 PM at same location.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.