

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission  
Regular Meeting MINUTES  
Athens City Building  
Wednesday January 16, 2019 6:30 PM

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1. Call to order—Commission Chair Richard Linscott called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Members present include Elaine Goetz, Ed Newman, Richard Linscott, Sam Crowl, Paul Logue, Stefan Gleissberg, Aimee Delach, and Cliff Hamilton. Members absent include Jessica Dalzell, Caitlin Garrity, and Kristin Rice. Quorum was established.

2. Disposition of Minutes—Ms. Goetz commented that she is willing to assist with an information dashboard. Goetz motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Delach seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

3. Next Meeting Date—Feb 6, 2019. Delach reported that she may be absent.

4. Old Business

A. Draft biodiversity section for plan—Mr. Gleissberg discussed some next steps that are needed. There needs to be some data collected before any policies can be adopted. Aimee recommended a bio-blitz to collect species data. Rural Action is doing this in the Wayne NF and OU has been tracking species in the Ridges for decades now too. Stefan would like the subcommittee to meet soon on this. Commission members expressed interest in organizing a bio blitz.

B. Athens City Schools planning—Mr. Crowl discussed with SOPEC director Eddie Smith. Smith will be inviting Sam to some meetings that are coming up. There are also concerns about removal of chimney at East Elementary due to chimney swifts nesting there. Demolition schedule has not been determined. There are examples of structures that can be built to replace chimneys. Sam volunteered to draft a letter supporting zero energy policies for the new schools planning. Aimee made a motion to support a letter in support of zero energy, Mr. Linscott seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. Elaine has reached out to school board member Sean Parsons regarding a sustainability education program for kids. Elaine will follow up on this.

C. East State Street/OU land—Stefan and community member Phil Cantino met with Mayor Patterson to better understand city plans for this land. There are lots of invasive species as well as native maple trees. Local arborist Ann Bonner convened a meeting to coordinate a management plan for the land to remove invasive species and plant native shrubs. This area could be a pilot biodiversity assessment. Stefan would like nature explorer backpacks that can be checked out at community center that kids can learn how to ID species.

D. Data requests—Elaine and Ms. Rice need to follow up with Columbia Gas and AEP to get info from 2018. Richard is looking into a dashboard program that can be accessed by the community. Elaine likes a UNC page as a good model.

#### 5. New Business

There was no new business.

#### 6. Announcements and Updates

A. Council updates—Sam discussed the Stimson Ave project planning that is ongoing. The city is also looking at lighting city wide.

B. Thesis project—Jessica Dalzell will have this completed this semester.

C. Wayne NF forest planning—WNF is closed due to government shutdown.

#### 7. Adjournment

With all agenda items satisfied and no additional items Richard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sam seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue