

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Athens City Building
Wednesday August 7, 2019 6:30 PM

1. Call to order - Member Aimee Delach called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. Members present include Cliff Hamilton, Caitlin Garrity, Aimee Delach, Elaine Goetz, Ed Newman, Stefan Gleissberg and Sam Crowl. Members absent include Paul Logue. Quorum was established. 3 seats on the commission are vacant. No guests were present.

2. Disposition of Minutes - the minutes from June were reviewed by the commission. Goetz motioned to approve the minutes for both meetings as submitted. Newman seconded. All voted in favor. The minutes were approved.

3. Next Meeting Date—Sept. 4, 2019 at 6:15

4. Old Business

A. Commission housekeeping (chair appointment, new members, agendas, etc.)—Crowl made the motion to elect Delach to the position as chair of the commission. Newman seconded. All voted in favor. Members discussed changing the time of the standing meeting due to the sustainability film series. Members will regroup on this matter in September.

B. Commission membership - Crowl made the motion to appoint Austin Babrow to the commission. Gleissberg seconded. All voted in favor. Gleissberg made the motion to appoint Sarah Conley-Ballem to the Commission. Goetz seconded. All voted in favor. Members discussed that the next step will be presentation of appointments on August 19th to council. Elaine will look for a student to fill the student position.

C. Action items/data collection (All) – members discussed current data collection process and member tasks. Elaine proposed working meeting September 4th, members agree. After the working meeting September 4th, 2018 data will be given to council. Caitlin to collect some economy data based on Richard’s notes. Elaine has some water data to share with Cliff. The September 4th meeting will be an introduction to new commission members.

D. Draft biodiversity section for plan (All) - Aimee and Stefan will regroup with the commission should discuss next month and sent around to everyone.

5. New Business

A. 2030 decarbonization goals- Gleissberg suggests the commission recalibrate sustainability goals to align with more national efforts happening for climate change, given the urgency conveyed in recent reports from the United Nations and the US Global Change Research Program. Elaine points out that we don’t have a carbon neutrality goal in the sustainability plan. Revision to the Greenhouse Gas section to be revised to have a goal. Aimee agrees to look into what other cities are doing and tools for cities. Stefan suggests this goal make it into the comprehensive plan.

B. Recycling—multiunit housing- Ed- since the partnership with The Summit, no further action has been taken. Ed plans to use the successes of the experience with the Summit to get more recycling at multifamily units across the city. Newman and Garrity will continue this work.

C. Pollinator Friendly City – Ed noted that there is widespread concern about pollinator decline, particularly bees. “Bee City” and “Bee Campus” are potential certification that Athens/OU could pursue. Aimee suggests adding pollinator issues to biodiversity plan. Council discusses current mowing practices along the Hocking River floodway and the possibility of inviting a Hocking Conservancy District representative to a meeting to brainstorm biodiversity friendly river management. Sam noticed some variance in how the land was being managed. He will research and report back.

D. Update on American in Bloom (livability index)– Cliff reports that we will get the report back in September. Will be done again next year. Ron Lucas will be looking for volunteers to help next year.

6. Announcements and Updates

A. City Schools (Crowl) - Chimney Swifts – Count Friday, August 9th 8:15 East Elementary. When the building is knocked down they will either leave the chimney or construct something similar. Member discuss. School design has improved to be more conducive to passive solar. Sam will draft a letter to the school board thanking them from the commission, for the changes that they have made.

B. Wayne NF forest planning (Delach) – attended first call in a few months – new terrestrial condition model is causing a slow down in publishing the draft assessment. Looking at late fall.

C. Community Member Comment (Crowl) Tom Scanlan – Compost service (\$20 per month) is not affordable with AHRC
Fees. Members discuss.

7. Adjournment

Amy motions to adjourn at 7:45. Ed seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted by Caitlin Garrity, with additions by Aimee Delach