

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Athens City Building
Tuesday April 4, 2017 5:30 PM

1. Call to order— Chair Richard Linscott called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM. Members present include Mr. Linscott, Mat Roberts, Elaine Goetz, and Meredith Price Mullins. Members absent include Cliff Hamilton, Ed Newman, and Jennifer Cochran. Quorum was established. Paul Logue recorded minutes and represented the city administration. Guests included Caitlin Garrity from Rural Action and Eddie Smith from SOPEC.

2. Disposition of Minutes—the minutes from February 2017 were reviewed by the commission. Richard moved to approve the minutes as submitted with no additions, comments, or alterations. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approving the minutes from February 2017. The motion was approved. The March meeting was canceled due to a power outage at City Hall.

3. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday May 2 at 5:30 PM at City Hall.

5. New Business

A. SOPEC—Mr. Smith introduced himself to the commission. He is the Operations Coordinator for SOPEC. He would like to assist the commission with the energy portions of the plan. He reported that 5-10% target is more realistic than the 20% reduction set in the plan. City kWh reported in the plan should be 8.5M not 850K. SOPEC has resources for efficiency improvements for city projects (\$27K). The funds are geared towards capital projects or renewable generation. Estimate that 90% of Athens customers are SOPEC members getting 100% renewable product, primarily wind energy from fields in Texas. Mr. Logue will update the plan and document what changes have been made. Regarding Eddie's comment #5 from an email he sent to Paul, Clyde, OH set up a parallel utility adjacent to Toledo Edison in 1989. Toledo Edison was ultimately abandoned by Clyde. The city of Clyde saved \$110M in 10 years. Paul will also change the tip in the plan regarding agent of change.

4. Old Business

A. Zero Waste—Ms. Garrity discussed the information she provided to the commission in March. The commission is interested in moving forward with a zero waste program for city operations. Mat volunteered to create a proposal that can be forwarded to Mayor Patterson. Ms. Goetz made a motion for move forward with this recommendation and project. Mat seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

B. Commission Appointment—Paul reported that Kristin Rice expressed interest in filling the vacant seat on the commission. Appointments are the responsibility of City Council but they have taken commission recommendations in the past. Ms. Rice is the zero waste manager at Global Cooling and has

been involved with sustainability topics in the past. The commission supported her filling the vacancy. Paul will request a bio and forward to Council.

6. Announcements and Updates—Mat reported that the Sierra Club is sponsoring a viewing of the documentary Bag It on April 27 at the Athena. The commission agreed to co-sponsor this event at \$100. Mat made a motion to use \$100 of commission budget for this event. Elaine seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mat announced that he is resigning from the commission in order to focus his time on a few other projects. He feels that the time is good now that the plan is complete and moving forward. He thanked the commission for all of their efforts and the commission expressed gratitude for all of his dedication.

7. Adjournment—with all agenda items satisfied and no new business the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue