

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 5, 2022 6:00 PM
Athens City Building
8 East Washington Street, 3rd Floor
Athens, OH 45701

1. Call to order-- Chairwoman Aimee Delach called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. Members present included Delach, Sam Crowl, Sarah Conley-Ballew, Paul Logue, Elaine Goetz, and Jasmine Facun. Members absent included Austin Babrow, Megan Almeida, Katelyn Rousch, Megan Westervelt, and Ed Newman. Quorum was established. No guests were present.

2. Disposition of Minutes—the minutes from the regular meeting on December 1, 2021 were reviewed by the commissioners. Elaine Goetz motioned to approve the minutes as submitted to the commission. Sarah Conley-Ballew seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The minutes were approved.

3. Next Meeting Date – February 2, 2022 6PM

4. Old Business

A. Aimee Delach asked Sam Crowl about pollinator program training that was discussed at a previous meeting. Crowl reported that this hasn't started yet.

5. New Business

A. ASAP plan update—Conley-Ballew proposed that the commission consider updates or revisions to the plan to make it better align with council, city administration, and community priorities. Members discussed metrics, carbon, and council and administrative actions. Conley-Ballew proposed a review of the ASAP for 2022 to reflect on the past 5 years that includes a summary of actions, policies, and a community resource guide. This would include focus on biodiversity and zero waste. Goetz recommended this be wrapped into the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals as well. Jasmine Facun commented on potential impact of Covid on metrics. Conley-Ballew mentioned that the city fleet vehicle analysis will be coming soon and Goetz said she was just given updated campus and city fuel usage data. Crowl commented on the new council starting this week and interests of the members as they relate to sustainability planning. Paul Logue said the city is working with Rural Action to have a VISTA position starting this month to help with carbon data collection and reporting.

B. City Council Zero Waste Resolution—Commission members are interested in helping with this.

C. Athens Beautification Days—Crowl reported that they are searching for projects in the month of April. Members suggested graffiti cleanup, plantings, and pollinators.

6. Announcements and Updates

A. Athens East Side Solar Project—Delach reported that someone expressed concern regarding potential heat island effect from solar. There has been very little research on that matter but some research suggests some very localized surface heat temperature increase was observed at a large facility in the Arizona desert. Goetz reported that OU researcher Sarah Davis is interested in studying the effect

of pollinators and the microclimate around them in this project. Conley-Ballew reported that Third Sun is responsible for managing the surface prep and seeding for the pollinator gardens. This would likely be done by a subcontractor.

B. Facun reported that the Wayne adopted a seasonal trail policy to give some flexibility to opening/closing the Baileys trails based on conditions.

7. Adjournment

With all agenda items satisfied and no further business Crawl motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:10PM. Facun seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue