

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda
Athens City Building
Wednesday February 5, 2020 6:00 PM

1. Call to order—Aimee Delach called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Members present include Delach, Stefan Gleissberg, Caitlin Garrity, Elaine Goetz, Austin Babrow, Sarah Conley Ballew, Paul Logue, Sam Crowl, Ed Newman, and Abby Rodjom. Member Cliff Hamilton was absent. Quorum was established. Guests include Bill Morgan, Pat McGee, Zack Reizes, Katie Blohm, Emily Mastalski, Molly Kletzly, Mackenzie Kane, Caitlyn Gampp, and Carly Rossiter.

2. Disposition of Minutes—Gleissberg motioned to approve the minutes as submitted to the commission. Sam seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

3. Next Meeting Date – March 4, 2020 6:00PM

4. Old Business

A. Student data collection—students discussed research and discussed research needs. Commission members provided a list of potential communities to compare including Kent, Oxford, Bowling Green, Morgantown, Boone, Clemson, Meadville, Fort Collins, and Ames. Goetz recommended they review the OU peer institutions list to see if any of them are similar to Athens.

B. Biodiversity plan section—Delach discussed the biodiversity draft that she provided to the commission last week. The commission discussed on how to fit it into the plan as an addendum or a standalone document. Aimee asked for peer review feedback prior to next month’s regular meeting. Public review could start in mid-march with Council approval in April.

C. 50th Anniversary of Earth Day—Commission members reported on a host of events and efforts being organized as part of Earth Month this April. Among them are:

- Mayor’s Climate event
- Cheshire film and event
- Athens Farmers market event and announcement
- AHRC and landfill tours/educational events
- Bike event
- Westside pollinator garden installation
- Sol Smart designation legislation
- OHIO Earth Day Celebrations
- Eastside street festival
- Sustainability Commission Biodiversity Section announcement
- Student Senate Environmental Justice Week

Growing Local Solar April 6th event OEC, Green Energy Ohio, Rural Action, SOPEC
CFI container garden workshop April 22
Community cleanup around the county
Athens County tree plantings for Athens Beautification Day April 25/26

Sam and Elaine reported that 4/21 will have pet yoga, earth day parade, reduce/reuse/relax fair, rebike, and Arbor Day celebration, 22nd includes awards luncheon and the Office of Sustainability needs nominations. A website has been updated ohioearthday.weebly.com and it needs calendar info. Send events to Sam and Elaine at events.sustainability@ohio.edu. (Abby, WCA, CoA, Commission). East Side Chris Fahl is leading an East Side beautification month. Zack Reizes is organizing compost center tours. Graduate student Katie Blohm reported that she is working on Bee Campus and Bee City status. CFI, Farmers Market working on projects too. Little Fish kids programming on 4/19.

D. Reusable Bag Giveaway—Sam said this can be removed from agenda.

E. West Side Community Association collaboration—Aimee met with the WCA and discussed a pollinator garden at Arts West. Abby is a master gardener and would like to help with this project. They will communicate with Emily Beveridge at Arts West and the WCA.

5. New Business

- A. City Council Climate Action Emergency one reading resolution—passed unanimous by council on Monday. Sarah reviewed some sections from the resolution. Deliverable in the resolution is a Climate Mobilization Action Plan.

6. Announcements and Updates

- A. Wayne National Forest plan—Draft plan assessment is available—comments due march 9.
- B. Amy Lynch has asked for a speaker at her sustainability class this semester on Feb. 20. Aimee, Elaine, and possibly Sarah will be doing this.
- C. Guest Sue Righi expressed concern about move-out leadership.

7. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue