

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday January 4, 2023, 6:00 PM  
Athens City Building  
8 East Washington Street  
Athens, OH 45701

1. Call to order: Chair Aimee Delach called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Member present: Aimee Delach, Jasmine Facun, Beth Clodfelter, Sam Crowl, Ed Newman, Elaine Goetz. Members absent: Paul Logue, Megan Almeida, Megan Westervelt, Sarah Conley-Bellew

2. Disposition of Minutes: Clodfelter motioned to approve minutes for December 2022 as submitted. Goetz seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

3. Next Meeting Date – February 1, 2023

4. Old Business. Conley-Bellew's term expired at the end of 2022, and on January 3 Council voted to reappoint her.

5. New Business

A. OU Move Out. A group is meeting to reinvigorate waste collection efforts associated with Moveout, which languished during Covid. Much of the needed effort is for the off campus housing. Some 200 tons of waste gets generated in a few days, and a lot of that is recoverable. But it's a big effort (couches, mattresses, food, etc.). Identified needs include drop-off sites, volunteers to transport items, storage/offtaking capacity (current thrift stores are limited in available space), shipping costs for mattresses, and landlord engagement. Maybe scale it back to collection of mattresses and food, and build from there in subsequent years.

Campus recycling, rural action, AHRC, Waste district, are having some initial meetings.

B. Earth Day. Crowl is in charge of University Earth Day, and looking for project ideas, e.g. distribution of seedlings from the trees on college green but that effort would need to begin in autumn. Arts West pollinator garden might be a possibility (Master Gardeners are working with the city on an MOU). Another possibility might be to focus on helping with moveout.

C. Green House Gas Emissions Inventories. Logue has always put in a request for the energy data. Needs to be an official from the city, so that might have to be Crowl. Needs to go to AEP and Columbia Gas. Window is January and February.

D. Mowing Practices. Will discuss in more detail next month.

E. City of Athens Municipal Solid Waste & Recycling Collection. Two companies bid for the residential and business district contracts, AHRC and Rumpke. Rumpke's bid was lower, but

according to the law director, neither company followed the bid instructions exactly, and the city has the option of throwing out either or both bids. Both bids were higher than the current cost.

6. Announcements and Updates.

What can the commission do to educate about the IRA opportunities?

7. Adjournment—Goetz motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:20. Crowl seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.