

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, 6:00 PM  
Athens City Building  
8 East Washington Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Athens, OH 45701

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1. Call to order—Chair Aimee Delach called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Members present include Aimee Delach, Elaine Goetz, Ed Newman, Sam Crowl, Katelyn Rousch, and Beth Clodfelter. Quorum was established. Members absent included Jasmine Facun, Megan Almeida, Sarah Conley-Bellew, Megan Westervelt, Beth Clodfelter, and Paul Logue. Guests included Molly Jo Stanley and Sean Pierce.

2. Disposition of Minutes—Goetz motioned to approve minutes for November as submitted. Delach seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

3. Next Meeting Date—April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

4. Old Business

A. Commission Bylaws—Crowl explained the bylaws of the commission need to be updated to include the 2012 creation ordinance and precise terms of office.

B. Plastic Bag Ordinance—The language in this proposed ordinance has been updated based on the commission’s recommendations. ReThink Plastics should consider meeting with the Athens Chamber of Commerce and the Uptown Business Association meetings to get feedback from those stakeholders. A date in January would allow more time for businesses to adapt than the previously proposed date in August. The first reading for this ordinance is likely to be delayed another month by Council.

C. Pedestrian Recommendations—Clodfelter motioned for the commission to accept these recommendations and Goetz seconded. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

D. Zoning Ordinance—An adjustment to the city’s zoning would add “and accessory energy systems” to the existing code, clarifying that residents can get a permit for things like rooftop solar. Goetz motioned for the commission to recommend adopting this ordinance and Clodfelter seconded. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

E. Mowing Pamphlet—Clodfelter motioned to disseminate the Mowing Pamphlet created by Rousch, Facun, and Newman as a Commission Document. Goetz seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

F. Sustainability Award Program—This topic was tabled in interest of time. Crowl announced the OU Sustainability Awards are approaching and that the Office of Sustainability is accepting nominations for community sustainability leaders.

G. OU Move Out—Newman has worked with a team preparing for move out activities on and off campus. This year their focus will be on mattresses and food. Delach will help with bike collection. Newman asked if the red tubs for city recycling could be borrowed and if any curbside programs would be possible to coordinate with the city. Crowl reported that leaving items on the curbs for scavenging is discouraged by the city.

H. Earth Day—There will be an EV Showcase, re-bike program, solid ground farm, a number of tabling partners, and a tree-root display in Bicentennial Par. Chair Aimee Delach is the keynote speaker for the main event happening on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 12–4pm.

I. GHG Inventory—Goetz reported that all trees were considered as offsets in the latest inventory and that she was given a link for where the inventory drew its transportation emissions data from.

J. MSW Contract—Council rejected both bids (from Rumpke and AHRC) due to incomplete applications and is planning to extend AHRC’s current contract by six-months.

#### 5. New Business

A. New Data Tool—StreetLight Data has a GHG emissions tool for Ohio cities. Goetz explained using this tool would not cost the city additional money, but the city must authorize use of it. Goetz motioned recommending this tool to the city, Clodfelter seconded. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

B. Athens Beautification—Arts West Project is larger than the commission can manage for beautification day. Mike Stanley Park is preferable. Anyone can sign up to help with beautification projects through GivePulse.

C. Student Representative—The commission is looking for a sustainability-minded student representative who can commit to at least one year. Crowl and Rousch will collect cover letters and resumes before Rousch graduates after the May meeting.

#### 6. Announcements and Updates

A. There will be training in April for how to utilize the Inflation Reduction Act.

B. On March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Athens Public Library, OEC will be having an open conversation about energy conversions in response to climate change.

C. At Ohio University, a Sustainability Network Kickoff is happening on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 29 Park Place from 1 to 4 pm. This is an opportunity for sustainability community members to meet students with the same passions.

7. Adjournment—Delach motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15. Clodfelter seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Katelyn Rousch.