

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 6:00 PM  
Athens City Building  
8 East Washington Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Athens, OH 45701

---

1. Call to order—Chair Aimee Delach called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. Members present include Aimee Delach, Elaine Goetz, Megan Westervelt, Ed Newman, Katelyn Rousch, and Beth Clodfelter. Quorum was established. Members absent included Sam Crowl, Jasmine Facun, Megan Almeida, Sarah Conley-Bellew, and Paul Logue. This meeting is the final one on Facun’s term on the Commission and she has decided not to seek a second, leaving an open seat beginning in May. Guests included Drew Lanburger, Molly Jo Stanley, and Sean Pierce.

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

3. Next Meeting Date—May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

4. Old Business

A. Plastic Bag Ordinance—The commission voted unanimously in favor of pushing back the beginning of the plastic bag ordinance to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. This will give businesses time to transition and use their remaining bags.

B. Earth Day Updates—A parade for Earth Day is occurring on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Afterward, there will be a litter clean up. On April 27<sup>th</sup> from 12–4pm, Ohio University will be celebrating Earth Day in the Walter Rotunda. Chair Aimee Delach is giving keynote speech at 1pm. Award nominations for community, faculty/staff, group, and student sustainability leader awards are due by April 7<sup>th</sup>. The weekend following Earth Day, there will be several Beautification events, including the Commission’s clean-up of Mike Stanley Park.

C. Potential New Members—Rousch nominated Sean Pierce to assume her role as the student commissioner and Clodfelter seconded. All members voted in favor to recommend Pierce to council to begin his term in June. In May, the commission will vote on who will fill Facun’s seat. Molly Jo Stanley has been the only person to put in a bid so far.

D. Move Out Update—Newman is organizing mattress and food collection for Athens Move Out. From Thursday 5/4 to Monday 5/8 his team will collect twin mattresses for \$24 and king-size for \$43, with cheaper pricing for landlords looking to centralize collection. Food will be collected in recycling carts. Westervelt is reaching out to university contacts for film documentation of Move Out activities.

5. New Business

A. Backyard Chickens—Zoning code is being reviewed. Previous discussions of chickens reviewed how feed & litter would be managed on smaller plots, disallowing roosters, and “chicken shelters” for instances where people try chickens but then no longer want them.

B. Rodent Bait Boxes—Rodenticides have a negative impact on wildlife and the chemicals can hurt people as well. When rats die from these chemicals, scavengers who eat them can also die. The

common recommendation is to only allow licensed pest-control to place bait boxes and forbid the use of open trays or pellets.

C. Dark Skies—The commission will gather recommendations for lighting to reduce light pollution in Athens and help the city attempt to get Dark Sky Certified. Rousch is gathering articles on lighting recommendations and the potential relationship between safety and red lights.

#### 6. Announcements and Updates

A. Weekly summer bike rides will begin on Wednesday at 5:30 on the bike path behind Walmart.

B. Two members of the commission, Sam Crowl and Beth Clodfelter, will be running for seats on City Council in November.

7. Adjournment—Goetz motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:11. Westervelt seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Katelyn Rousch.