

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 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 6:08 PM. Members present include Aimee Delach, Sam Crowl, Jasmine Facun, Katelyn Rousch, Megan Westervelt, Elaine Goetz, and Ed Newman. Quorum was established. Members absent included Megan Almeida, Sarah Conley-Bellew, and Paul Logue. Guests included Molly Jo Stanley and Xander Stultz.

2. Disposition of Minutes—Westervelt motioned to approve minutes for June as submitted. Facun seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved. Goetz motioned to approve minutes for August as submitted. Crowl seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved

3. Next Meeting Date—October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

4. Old Business

A. Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory—The findings of this inventory will be featured in the spring edition of GreenWatch, which is a blog managed by the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC). The commission will be working closely with Chris Fahl with the Shade Tree Commission to expand upon findings related to the Athens tree canopy. Westervelt recommended reaching out to Ohio University infographics classes to design publicly accessible diagrams for the information contained in this inventory. Goetz and Newman expressed interest in comparing this data with that compiled in the commissions drive and for the commission to continue to collect the kind of data contained in the inventory every year.

B. River Corridor—Crowl mentioned that a tree planting may be occurring along the River Corridor. If this can be verified, it will be important to learn how the planting was pushed through to replicate similar projects. Newman noted that with the new fire department location being in the corridor, now is the time to discuss potential issues and push for accountability. For example, double checking all precautions will be made for keeping material from washed trucks out of the watershed. According to Goetz, this is especially important considering an EPA city stormwater permit inspection will occur in the next few months. Newman also noted that the mowing cycles along the corridor currently do not accommodate pollinators. Crowl recommended that the commission write two official letters to City Council describing these respective concerns.

C. Athens Move Out—This year the Athens Move Out efforts will focus on food and mattresses. Newman hopes to partner with Rural Action to expand material recovery capacity by using their reusal corridor.

D. Zero Waste Updates—Zero Waste Event Productions may be offering a deposit system for unwanted souvenir cups. Rousch described her work with Campus Recycling at Ohio University to expand compost access to students in the residence halls. The next stage in this program will be to get more bins and hopefully source them from local and/or recycled-plastic sources.

5. New Business

No new business was discussed.

6. Announcements and Updates—Next month the commission will hear from Chris Fahl about a biodiversity partnership with the Shade Tree Commission. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Shade Tree Commission will be planting trees at bus stops from 9 am to 1 pm. On alternating Wednesdays, the Sustainability Film Series will be running at the Athena Cinema. The August 24<sup>th</sup> session for Sunshine Laws and Robert’s Rules of Order recording is now available on the city website.

7. Adjournment—Facun motioned to adjourn the meeting. Westervelt seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Katelyn Rousch.