

APPROVED

Minutes of the Environmental Quality Advisory Board
December 3, 2009
Submitted by Joan Nelson, Recording Secretary

Meeting called to order by Jimmy Groton at 7:02
Quorum established.

Members attending:

Jimmy Groton
Boyd Carter
Joan Nelson
Joe Wood
Fred Stephens
Bruce Nigh
Pat Fain
Pat Imperato
Robert Kennedy
Mike Burns
Courtney Walls

Members absent:

Chuck Agle

Also present:

Athanasia Senecal, intern, City of Oak Ridge Staff
Ellen Smith, Oak Ridge City Council

Guest present:

Kathy Olsen, guest observer from the League of Women Voters

Introductions were made and Kathy Olsen was welcomed.

Joan Nelson was recognized as Recording Secretary

Amendments to the Agenda as follows:

Workshop with City Council added to Sustainability Initiative
Status of "Grand Prius" for Earth Day added to Unfinished Business

Announcements

Jimmy Groton announced the TCWP Holiday Celebration on December 10, 7-9 pm at 371 East Drive, the home of Bill Allen and Jenny Freeman.

Joe passed around the Action Update for each member to record their actions.

No scheduled Presentation.

During the meeting three suggestions were made for future Presentations:

Joe Welsh with TPO
Soltility Representative
Ameresco

Courtney Walls reported that she has a meeting with Vice Principal Goins to discuss stream restoration and recycling.

Mike Burns reported talking to Deni Sobek, Environmental Club sponsor, about volunteering.

There was some discussion about two land transfers of present or former DOE properties. EA for transfer of former ED3 parcel across from K25 to ETPP.

Report in the Oak Ridger of the transfer of 390 acres of unsold land at the Horizon Center from CROET to the IDB, to be managed by Oak Ridge Economic Partnership, headed by Kim Denton, who will also become executive director of the IDB.

Under communications Pat Imperato asked whether EQAB wanted to be listed as a presenter of Earth Day on the letters to perspective sponsors. It was noted that the City will not appear as a sponsor, but is a facilitator of the event. Some discussion followed about the responsibilities EQAB will assume in preparing for Earth Day. Joan Nelson, who is the representative to the Earth Day committee, will consider assuming more responsibility in addition to planning the Grand Prius event. EQAB will continue its role as sponsor as we had previously decided.

City Staff report from Athanasia Senecal.

Athanasia presented the appropriate procedure for EQAB and its members in communicating with press and the media. Each member is free to communicate their personal views, making it clear that their views do not represent EQAB or the City. Any official communication from EQAB must be approved by the Board and City Staff before release.

Athanasia updated us on the history of and the future scheduled meetings of the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee recently formed under the auspices of the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO.) They have a public forum scheduled at the Civic Center on January 5. Pat Imperato made a motion to compose a letter to Jim O'Connor to request that EQAB be kept informed of the progress of the advisory committee since their work directly relates to areas covered in the Climate Action Plan/Sustainability report that EQAB is writing. Particularly in the areas of "complete streets" and "green neighborhoods". Robert Kennedy seconded the motion. The Board approved.

Athanasia reported on her conversation with Oak Ridge Attorney, Ken Krushinki, about the legality of an Energy Audit contract. It is legal to piggyback on an existing contract such as the one Knoxville has with Ameresco. However, the City could not accept a contract without a cap. Discussion followed. Joe Wood raised the question, could a contract be negotiated with a company such as Ameresco that could be acceptable to the City. Since an energy audit is a priority in the draft Climate Action Plan, we discussed whether EQAB should continue to consider all options as we do the research for our Climate Action Plan report. Robert Kennedy made a motion that he prepare a written presentation for EQAB, city staff, and Council, about the levels of energy audits available and the advantages and disadvantages of each. Boyd Carter seconded the motion. The Board approved.

No Planning Commission report from Chuck. Ellen reported that the Melton Lake Redevelopment Plan has been submitted to City Council and is scheduled for a vote at the next meeting.

Under Special Projects, Jimmy commented that the work session with City Council on November 3 went well. The Board is awaiting the written comments from City Council members. Jimmy has requested the comments be submitted to EQAB, via the online form he

has sent to each member of Council, by December 14. He will compile the comments by our next scheduled meeting on January 7.

Discussion followed about how to proceed with finishing the document. It was agreed that the document is not yet publishable or ready for online presentation. The quality of the formatting is not yet acceptable. Athanasia requested that Robert meet with her this week to provide technical expertise in quantifying measurements in the ICLEI model. Joan Nelson is responsible for compiling the glossary. Pat Imperato is responsible for reporting on government and business initiatives underway in Oak Ridge. Each member was tasked with reviewing the document and giving their input, via the online form the City Council is using. The deadline for member input is January 4. Future work sessions will be scheduled at the January 7 meeting.

No discussion of open burning.

EQAB website domain will expire in March. Fred Stephens is no longer able to maintain the website. So far, the website has received few visitors. It needs to be publicized. Ellen commented that in other cities, Facebook and Twitter are getting more public interaction than just a website. Athanasia was asked to discuss the possibility with City Staff of her assuming responsibility for the website. The suggestion was made that any time we have an article in the paper or any publicity, that we reference the website.

No reports on External Organizations.

Jimmy Groton presented the proclamation for Invasive Weed Awareness Week (also known as Invasive Species Awareness Week) that will go to City Council for approval at their January meeting. He also presented the proposed resolution for the Tennessee Senate. During the week of February 22-27, EQAB and TCWP will sponsor a presentation by Harry Quarles about invasive species. The motion to submit the Proclamation to the City Council was made by Robert Kennedy and seconded by Pat Fain. The Board passed the motion.

Joan Nelson reported that after a conversation with Jim O'Connor, EQAB can proceed with the plans for a "Grand Prius" in conjunction with Earth Day. Ronnie Fox of Toyota expressed an interest in acting as a sponsor. Fred Stephens and Joan will continue the planning process.

Ellen Smith passed around information about a "free green can" product to increase recycling in out-of-home settings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50.

Submitted by Joan Nelson, Recording Secretary
December 4, 2009
Approved as amended, January 7, 2009

Ms Joan Nelson
1/11/10