APPROVED

Environmental Quality Advisory Board
Minutes

DATE: May 5, 2011

PLACE: Municipal Building Training Room

PRESENT: Jimmy Groton, Boyd Carter, Fred Stephens, Pat Fain, Pat Imperato, Dave Weston, Chuck Agle, Leslie Agron, Robert Kennedy, Ben Terpstra, Austin Morgan, Athanasia Senecal Lewis – Staff Representative

ABSENT: none

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Mr. Groton. Attendance was taken and visitors were recognized.

VISITORS: Lou Arnold, League of Women Voters; Jeff Welch, Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO).

Mr. Groton made a motion to amend the agenda by having the presentation first. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION: Jeff Welch provided an overview of the Plan East Tennessee (PlanET) program that originated from the $4.5 million dollar HUD Regional Sustainability Communities grant that the City of Knoxville and TPO partners received. This consortium is currently working on a regional sustainability plan.

Mr. Groton made a motion to approve the April 7th minutes as submitted and the motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. The minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORTS

High School: Mr. Terpstra reported that the School Board approved the proposed solar initiative for solar panels at the High School. Mr. Terpstra met with Mr. Suggs, Electric Department Director, and Mr. Watson, City Manager to discuss the next steps for this project. Funding options are currently being explored.

Mr. Austin reported that the environmental club at the school is discussing recycling options for plastic bottles; recycling containers need to be placed at the tennis courts.

Staff: Ms. Senecal Lewis reported that the "Living Green" brochure was distributed at the Earth Day Festival. The brochure will be available at the Secret City Festival as well.

Ms. Senecal Lewis announced the need for volunteers for the rebuild of the playground at Cedar Hill Park.

She also updated the Board on Oak Ridge's participation in the EPA Building Blocks Program.

There was no Planning Commission report.

Earth Day: Ms. Imperato provided an update on the Earth Day festival. There were about 3,000 people at the event; the event was successful. Additional information about the festival will be available at a later date.

The action items checklist was passed around the room.

Mr. Agron talked about benchmarks in the Climate Action Plan (CAP); he sought clarification as to whether or not federal facilities were included in the CAP and they are not.

There was a discussion about future presentations.

Ms. Fain provided an update on the Oak Ridge Revitalization Effort (ORRE). She reported that the Board of Directors decided to start using concepts of sustainability as a pilot in Grove Center.

Ms. Fain made a motion to request that a member of EQAB be present at the EPA Stakeholder meetings on May 12th and the motion was seconded by Mr. Agron and unanimously approved.

Mr. Groton made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Agle and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Robert Kennedy vice chair 6/7/11