

Approved

Environmental Quality Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
August 2, 2012

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board was held in the Training Room of the Municipal Building, Oak Ridge, TN on August 2, 2012. The meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m. with Jimmy Groton, Chairman, presiding.

Members in attendance: Leslie Agron, Pat Fain, Jimmy Groton, Steve Kenworthy, James Placke, Dean Gray, Sylvia Milanez, Elijah Fetzer, Stephanie Paul, Athanasia Senecal Lewis – Staff Representative

Members not in attendance: Pat Imperato (excused), Robert Kennedy (excused), Chuck Agle

Visitors/Others: Kathy Olsen, League of Women Voters

Approval of the agenda: A motion was made by Ms. Fain and seconded by Mr. Kenworthy to accept the agenda; motion carried.

Approval of minutes: A motion was made by Ms. Fain and seconded by Mr. Agron to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2012 meeting as amended. The motion carried.

Presentation: None

Communications: The Invasive Species Seminar that EQAB is cosponsoring will be held on September 21, 2012. September 29, 2012 is National Public Lands Day and TCWP will hold a work day at the Worthington Cemetery from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The group will meet at the Elza Gate Park Entrance.

Reports:

High School: No report

DOE-related Updates: No report

Staff: Ms. Senecal Lewis reported that the City submitted three demonstration projects for review by the PlanET Community Leadership Team (CLT). The first project establishes a plan to develop a form-based code in historic Jackson Square. The second project develops a plan for streetscape and façade improvements in the Cedar Hill Park neighborhood. The third project develops a plan for a rails-to-trails project that begins at the intersection of Elza Gate and Oak Ridge Turnpike, runs parallel to Fairbanks Avenue, and ends at the Department of Energy (DOE) Y-12 National Security Complex.

The CLT selected one project from each county in the five-county PlanET area, and the form-based code for historic Jackson Square was selected for Anderson County. The project will be completed using in-kind services from the University of Tennessee School of Architecture.

Ms. Lewis also reported that the city is now a voting member of the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO); the TPO recently amended their by-laws to include Oak Ridge as a voting member.

Ms. Lewis also reported that the TPO's urbanized area expansion includes the city and this will affect the way certain sources of funding are allocated to the city. Particular projects will now be submitted directly to the TPO instead of the State.

Ms. Lewis reported that the City of Oak Ridge and a large part of Anderson County are in the quarantined area for fire ants. She spoke with the Department of Agriculture and they confirmed that they lack adequate resources to treat quarantined areas. Their primary goal is to keep the ants from escaping the quarantined areas. Ms. Lewis discussed a certification program that the University of Tennessee offers to persons applying pesticides. She is in the process of exploring eradication options since City staff has limited resources and there are stringent guidelines for commercial contractors.

Planning Commission: No report

Keep Anderson County Beautiful: No report

Citizen's Oversight Panel (COP): Mr. Kenworthy reported that they have developed a draft pamphlet describing what the organization is about. They may want to comment on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Horizon Center.

Green Infrastructure Committee (EQAB sub-committee): Ms. Fain reported that the committee did not meet last month. They will provide an overview of the sub-committee's actions at a later date. Mr. Kenworthy mentioned that he reviewed the Pump Station Evaluation Plan for upgrading the city's pumps and will inquire about whether energy efficiency is considered when planning to replace the pumps.

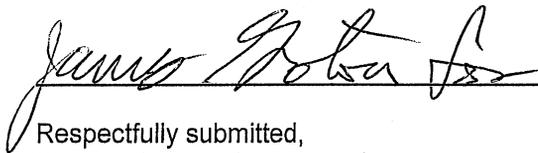
Ms. Fain mentioned that she spoke with Alan Eubanks from the Oak Ridge Rowing Association and he asked about tree trimming guidelines at the marina around the rowing venue. He asked if the trees could be trimmed to 9 feet. Ms. Lewis will follow up with the Recreation and Parks Director to find out the guidelines.

Ms. Fain proposed establishing a partnership with other municipal boards. She plans on attending a few meetings and asked other board members to do the same.

Ms. Fain suggested the Board hear a presentation by an energy conservation group that advocates a 1% reduction of energy per year through TVA. She will look up her contact information and send it to Ms. Lewis to make arrangements for the presenter.

Motion(s): Ms. Fain made a motion that EQAB be given the opportunity to comment on projects under consideration and development that consider environmental issues and that public notice be given at the planning stage on the city webpage. Mr. Agron seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Dean made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Agron, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. and the motion carried.



Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Kenworthy, Secretary