

APPROVED

Environmental Quality Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes November 7, 2013

A. 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 November 7, 2013. The meeting convened at 7:10 p.m. with Steve Kenworthy, Chairman, presiding.

Members in attendance: Chuck Agle, Pat Imperato, Robert Kennedy, Steve Kenworthy, Sylvia Milanez, Jim Placke, Paige Russell, Aditya Savara, Stephanie Paul, Ellen Smith; Athanasia Senecal Lewis – Staff Representative

Members not in attendance: Pat Fain, Aditya Chourey

Visitors/Others: none

Approval of the agenda: A motion was made by Ms. Imperato and seconded by Ms. Milanez to add discussion of the November work session to new business. A second motion was made by Ms. Smith and seconded by Ms. Imperato to move items E2, 3, 5 to external reports. A third motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Ms. Imperato and seconded by Ms. Smith; all three motions carried.

B. Approval of minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2013 minutes as amended was made by Ms. Imperato and seconded by Ms. Smith; motion carried.

The two amendments are:

The first amendment is to change the text on the Citizens' Oversight Panel report to read: Mr. Kenworthy reported that the COP is waiting for a response from the New Mexico Community Foundation on the COP's proposal to the DOE-sponsored Community Involvement Fund program for education and outreach to increase public participation in the DOE cleanup activities on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

The second amendment is to add to item G that Mr. Savara expressed his concern that EQAB meetings were too long and not efficient. There followed group discussion of potential solutions, including holding additional committee/working group meetings.

C. Communications/Announcements: Ms. Imperato reported on a grant opportunity for riparian tree plantings.

D. Presentation: None scheduled

E. Reports:

High School: Ms. Paul reported that the Environmental club held a cleanup at the marina on November 2, 2013 and collected a lot of trash especially along the shorelines.

Summary of EQAB Work Session: Mr. Kenworthy reported that EQAB discussed four topics at the last work session. The Climate Action Plan Progress Report was discussed. Mr. Kenworthy provided an overview of the text and data for the report.

Staff Report: Ms. Lewis reported that EQAB will need to send a letter to the City Manager requesting participation in the WWF Earth Hour Challenge.

Planning Commission Report: Mr. Agle reported that the Planning Commission discussed the Capital Improvement Plan and money has been allocated for the rails-to-trails program in FY 2015.

Geotourism – Ms. Smith reported on the Geotourism workshop she and Ms. Fain attended. The workshop focused on making east Tennessee an attractive place for place-based tourism or environmental/green tourism.

External Reports:

Keep Anderson County Beautiful: Ms. Imperato reported that America Recycles Day is on November 9th from 10:00 to 2:00 at the old hardware store in Oak Ridge. This is a drop off event for books, eye glasses, paper, etc.

Ms. Imperato reported that Earth Day will be on April 26th 2014 and will be held inside. EQAB is a cosponsor. Ms. Imperato made a motion that EQAB cosponsor the Earth Day festival and seconded by Mr. Placke; motion carried.

Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB): Mr. Kenworthy reported that the board is meeting next week and that the Groundwater strategy document has been released.

Oak Ridge Reservation Alliance: No report

COP: Mr. Kenworthy was not selected to receive the community involvement grant they applied for.

F. Unfinished Business:

The Climate Action Plan: Mr. Kenworthy shared an outline of the progress report and there will be more discussion at the upcoming work session.

G. New business:

Environmental Awards: Ms. Smith reported that she and Ms. Milanez met with David Gengozian to discuss the way the environmental awards were done in the past. There was a nomination with a set of criteria that was published and there was a nominating committee comprised of EQAB members, as well as members of the community. EQAB made a recommendation to City Council and the business was recognized at the council meeting. Awards were only given to businesses and institutions. Only businesses and institutions can qualify and the government would be excluded from receiving awards.

Ms. Smith made a motion that EQAB endorse the reestablishment of the environmental quality awards. The motion was seconded by Ms. Milanez and the motion carried.

Environmental Review on CSX rail line: EQAB was asked to explore environmental concerns on the CSX rail line that was transferred to the city for a rails-to-trails project. Since the city is required to perform borings every 50 feet along the rail as part of an environmental review, EQAB was asked to do a preliminary assessment. EQAB discussed methods for evaluating the rail line, including a volunteer site assessment.

Work session topics for November 21st: CAP and CSX rail line

H. Adjournment: Mr. Savara made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., seconded by Ms. Smith; motion carried.



Respectfully Submitted,
Sylvia Milanez, Secretary