

Minutes of the Environmental Quality Advisory Board  
March 4, 2010  
Submitted by Joan Nelson, Recording Secretary

Members Attending:

Chuck Agle  
R. Boyd Carter  
Pat Fain  
Jimmy Groton  
Pat Imperato  
Robert Kennedy  
Joan Nelson  
Fred Stephens  
Courtney Walls

Excused:

Mike Burns  
Joe Wood

Absent:

Bruce Nigh

City Staff:

Athanasia Senecal

Visitor:

Kathy Olsen, League of Women Voters

Meeting was called to order by Groton at 7:10. A quorum was established.

Nelson was recognized as recording secretary.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Groton announced the Arbor Day event at Woodland at 10 am on Friday, March 5.

Later in the meeting he also announced the workday at the Cedar Barrens on Saturday, March 6, sponsored by TCWP, starting at 9 am.

The action items chart was passed around for members to update.

Walls gave the high school report. The Environmental Club is now meeting after school, 3 pm, on Fridays. Deni Sobek is the faculty sponsor. Imperato asked that the Club participate with Keep Anderson County Beautiful in the Clean Up America campaign sometime between March 15 and May 31. Nelson reported that Sobek will be recruiting volunteers for Earth Day on April 24.

Senecal and Stephens gave a demonstration of the EQAB website and the pages that exist within the city web page system. EQAB website is now under the Community Development website. Senecal explained who is responsible for each page. Presently, no one is assigned responsibility for maintaining the pages that pertain to *Toward A Sustainable Future*. The url, [greenoakridge.net](http://greenoakridge.net), is only an address that takes the user directly to the sustainability page making it easier to find the website. Otherwise, the link to this page is as follows:

<http://www.cortn.org/government/19-community-development/189-comdev-egub-page>. If the web page is designed so that time sensitive material is not included, the maintenance may not require a lot of effort. Senecal will speak with her manager to ascertain whether she, has the time to maintain a simplified web page. Imperato and Nelson expressed opinions that, as the Climate Action Plan is finalized, the website on sustainability could be very useful in educational efforts and could help create a positive image for Oak Ridge.

Staff Report from Senecal:

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board will be scheduling a meeting in the next couple of weeks. Stephens, who is on the Board, will be notified about the details for the next meeting.

The Planning Commission did not approve allowing chickens in Oak Ridge residential areas.

The application for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for the digital control system at the Central Services Complex, and the community outreach guide, has been submitted. The application is for \$100,000 with the total cost of the project estimated to be \$155,000.

Members of staff attended the TDEC workshop on the new regulations under the Tennessee Solid Waste Processing and Disposal Rule Chapter 1200-01-07. This new regulation requires 20% diversion of waste away from the landfills. More information is on the TDEC website.

Public works is considering installing an energy efficient roof on the Municipal Building.

The city will get a banner from TVA to promote TVA's Green Power Switch program. The banner will be displayed in the utility billing area at the Municipal Building so customers will see it when they register for city utilities and when they pay their bills.

Fire Station # 3 is beginning a recycling program.

Agle reported on Tom Vicary's application to zone the land on Oak Ridge Turnpike between Sonic and the Dollar General store for a car dealership. The request is being resubmitted after the PUD is reconsidered in light of what is needed to protect homes in the area. Vicary does not use loudspeakers and is planning downcast lighting. Some discussion followed about how this is an example of using green space while large buildings and areas of asphalt, grey fields, are now empty in close proximity to this lot. The kinds of problems that make use of grey fields difficult were discussed.

The Planning Commission now begins its meetings at 5:30 pm.

Senecal continues working with the ICLEI software on the inventoried items and mini-plans that will enable the City to meet its CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets. Areas of action such as trees, fleet, and municipal lighting are being reviewed by the appropriate city staff. This process could be completed in 5-6 weeks and be ready for review by EQAB. The goal is to submit the Climate Action Plan to City Council for their June meeting. As the CAP nears completion, EQAB needs to schedule a public forum. Imperato, in her role on the Tree Board and KACB, said she would like to be informed of meetings that include plans involving tree plantings so she can attend.

Kennedy reported, that according to his observations, the tree planting on the eastern section of the 95 expansion is being done in accordance with the plans that he and Groton reviewed with Steve Byrd.

Walls said that she and Burns could staff the EQAB booth at Earth Day. Discussion followed about what the theme of the booth could be and who could make the display. Suggestions included community gardens, invasive species, the theme of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, and information about EQAB. No decision can be made until someone can commit the time and effort. Senecal will see if she has some time to work on the booth display. Imperato and Nelson continue their work on the Earth Day planning committee.

Imperato reported on KACB activities. The Great American Clean Up is from March 15 to May 31. KACB is working for a grant from Coca Cola to obtain recycle bins. As part of the continuing effort to plant trees in the city, she is meeting with stakeholders and with city staff such as Josh Collins and John Hetrick. Groton suggested that it might be good to work with the schools for a tree planting effort.

The Work Plan was reviewed. Carter moved that we accept it as written and Stephens seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Agle, Carter, Groton, Imperato, Kennedy, Nelson, Stephens, and Walls. Voting against was Fain.

Groton will submit, with the work plan, an annual report including number of meetings held, the action items chart, and noting that the minutes of the meetings are on record for review.

Having a booth at Secret City was discussed. This will be after the CAP is finished and the CAP could be the subject of the booth. Nelson is available to help with creation and staffing of the booth. Senecal will check to see if we pay the \$35 and register EQAB as an exhibitor. Carter can provide a 10 X 10 canopy and a table if needed.

Kennedy raised the issue of lighting along 95 and explained that lighting fixtures are the choice of the contractor as long as the variation of light along the road meets requirements. Nelson and Groton expressed concern that the lighting at the Dollar General at Florida and the Turnpike is a hazard to drivers. Senecal will follow up on these two issues with Kathryn and Monica. Kennedy reported that the new Habitat development is being planned to meet International Dark-Sky Association standards.

Kennedy raised the issue of the bottle bill, Tennessee Beverage and Recycling Act--SB 3469 and HB 3429, being considered by the Tennessee State Legislature. He estimates that this will have a negative impact on single stream recycling and be bad for the environment. Discussion followed. Kennedy moved that EQAB communicate to the City Council that in the big picture single stream recycling is better than a bottle bill for the environment and the state of Tennessee for the reasons which he will enumerate in a letter to City Council. Imperato seconded the motion.

After a short discussion, Fain moved to table the motion and Stephens seconded the move to table until the members could learn more details about the bill, how it would work, and its negative impacts on single stream and the environment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35.