

Minutes for EQAB meeting, September 2, 2010
Joan Nelson, Recording Secretary

Present:

Chuck Agle
Boyd Carter
Pat Fain
James Groton
Pat Imperato
Robert Kennedy
Joan Nelson
Austin Morgan
Dave Weston
Joe Wood

Absent:

Fred Stephens, excused

Guests:

Lou Arnold
Kathy Olsen
Ellen Smith
Mark Watson

Meeting called to order by Groton at 7:05 pm. A quorum was established.
Visitors were welcomed and introductions made.
Nelson agreed to act as recording secretary.
No amendments to the agenda.

Announcements:

Planning Meeting on the TN Bottle Bill, Sept. 18 at 9 am at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church.

National Public Lands Day, Saturday, Sept. 25 from 9 am to 1pm. Lunch provided by TCWP. Worthington Cemetery, Cedar Barrens.

Emerald Ash Borer Workshops in GSMNP

Sept. 11, Sept, 25, Oct. 2

Contact Ranger Susan Simpson at 865/436-1200 Ext. 762

Regional Litter Summit, Sept. 13, 9-3 at the Doubletree, Keep Anderson County Beautiful Luncheon and keynote speaker Judge Larry Potter

Presentation:

Our guest, new City Manager, Mark Watson spoke for a few minutes. He said a few words about his impressions of the CAP. He spoke of the need to prioritize as we move forward in Oak Ridge. EPA is requiring small cities to address the problems with infiltration in their sewer systems. So this will be a priority.

Minutes were approved unanimously for June 3. Minutes were approved for August 5 by all except Agle who abstained since he was not present at that meeting. No minutes from July since there was not a quorum.

Wood reports no change in Action Items spread sheet. He passed it around.

High School:

Morgan is beginning to collect comments from students and teachers about future environmental actions by high school students. Facebook and school paper were suggested a good venues for this. We discussed how EQAB can help the high school. The following were suggested: outings, education, service projects, and as a sounding board.

There are two applicants for the second representative from the high school to EQAB.

No report from DOE.

No communications not already covered in announcements.

Report from City Staff: Senecal was not present.

Wood suggested the need to familiarize ourselves with the By-Laws and review them. We reviewed the Rain Garden webinar, the TIGER II grant from the Omnibus Transportation Bill and the HUD Regional Grant we are involved as part of the larger Knoxville area. Smith explained that "urban area" has been defined by Census criteria, which was not intended to be used by government agencies to determine grants-but it has been adopted. That leaves Oak Ridge ineligible for many grants. There are other ways to define urban areas, such as Metropolitan Statistical Areas, that include Oak Ridge. Senecal had mentioned these issues and the grants at the August meeting.

Another source of revenue for the city could be the fines collected by TDEC because of the Kingston ash spill. Oak Ridge could qualify as part of the Lower Clinch River Watershed.

Rain gardens are a way of addressing water quality and infiltration problems and EQAB may want to consider what initiatives the city could take that would bring in revenue or mitigate EPA actions in the future.

Planning Commission Report:

Agle filled us in on the status with Eddie Hair and Rarity Ridge. No action required by EQAB.

Special Projects:

Comments can be submitted to EQAB until Sept. 10 on the CAP.

September 27 we will hold a workshop, 6:30 pm to work with these comments.

Groton will talk with city staff about the room and public announcement of the workshop.

External Organizations:

LOC having an annual meeting on Sept. 15, dinner at Razzleberrys, 6-9 pm. Boyd Carter, the EQAB representative to LOC, and Groton are invited.

Keep Anderson County Beautiful, Nov. 15th America Recycles at the American Museum of Science and Energy.

No unfinished business discussed.

New Business

Each member is to review the 2011 Work Plan before the next meeting and decide if there is something he/she wishes to champion, or accept responsibility for, during the coming year.

TN Bottle Bill has been improved before being reintroduced this legislative session per Groton and Kennedy.

Imperato reports that Earth Day planning is proceeding. Nelson coordinated the volunteers for the event last year. Could EQAB also sponsor something like the "Grand Prius" that was discussed last year?

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 by Groton.