



MINUTES
OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING 15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVE. OXFORD, OHIO 45056
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024 AT 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

The Environmental Commission members present were Jon Ralinovsky, Chair; Chantel Raghu, Vice-Chair and City Council Representative; Jason Bracken, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; and Peggy Branstrator. A quorum was present. Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator, was the staff liaison present.

Members of the public present were David Naibei, Climate Action Fellow, and Bamidele Osamika, Regional Climate Collaborative Manager for Green Umbrella.

Motion to approve the agenda: Ms. Raghu
2nd: Mrs. Branstrator
Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the June 5th, 2024 Minutes
- Motion: Ms. Branstrator
2nd: Ms. Raghu
Vote: Unanimous

Old Business

New Business

1. Climate Action Fellowship Review (David Naibei)

Mr. Naibei shared an overview of his time as a Climate Action Fellow for the 2024 summer cohort. The Climate Action Fellowship is a new program through Green Umbrella, in which Oxford was a host community. Mr. Naibei's projects included:

- Conducting C40's Capacity and Needs Assessment, Governance Self-Assessment, and Vertical Integration Assessment to identify areas of strengths and needs for the City of Oxford.
- Reviewing Community Engagement practices and making recommendations for increasing equity and access in our sustainability-related engagement.
- Establishing an energy usage benchmark for our Fire Station using Energy Star Portfolio Manager. He found that the facility's source Energy Use Intensity (EUI) is 44% lower than the median source EUI for fire stations nationally.
- Developing a target metric for green space preservation and expansion in Oxford. Mr. Naibei established that Oxford has 451.5 m² per person of green space, far above the WHO's recommended value of 50 m²/capita. He also noted that Oxford's green space is not equitably distributed or accessible, so green space benchmarks moving forward should address equity.

Lastly, Mr. Naibei shared some fun moments throughout the fellowship, such as the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for a new segment of the Oxford Area Trails, volunteering as a griller for a Senior Center event, and generally expressed his appreciation for the fellowship and Oxford.

2. Deer Population Control Program

Mr. Ralinovski shared that he received some comments about the Deer Management Program and asked if it could be expanded. Staff shared a memo from the Environmental Division with summaries of the Deer Management Program from previous seasons. The commission discussed possible changes to the program (i.e. increasing the number of permits issued, etc). Mr. Ralinovski will follow up with relevant staff members.

3. Member Updates

- City Council
- Planning Commission
- OPTAB
- Climate Action Steering Committee

Ms. Raghu reported no items from City Council but requested an update on the solar installation at the closed municipal landfill. Staff shared that the developer has until September 21st, 2024 to execute their option to lease.

No reports from Planning Commission or Oxford Parking and Transportation Advisory Board. Ms. Branstrator shared that Climate Action Steering Committee met with Mike Dreisbach, Director of Public Services, at their last meeting. Mr. Dreisbach shared many project updates and highlighted the LED street light conversion, which saves the city an estimated ~\$50k per year in energy costs.

4. Staff Updates

- Quarterly Report from the Environmental Services Division

Highlights from the Environmental Services Division's quarterly report include:

- Since being installed in late May 2023, the methane flare at the closed landfill has reduced the landfill's emissions by 28.5%, or 384.51 MT of CO₂e.
- Since beginning in April 2019, the food scrap collection program has diverted 100 T of organic waste from the landfill.
- The average weekly collection of food scraps is 679 lbs per week for 2024. The program average is 728 lbs per week.
- Three trees were planted as part of the Memorial Tree Plaque program at Oxford Community Park. 37 trees have been planted as part of this program.

Other staff updates include:

- The City and Miami's Institute for Environment and Sustainability were selected to host two Campus Climate Action Corp Members.
- Hike-a-Thon is on Sept. 21st this year
- The EPA announced the awardees of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, and the Cincinnati Metropolitan Statistical Area were not selected.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Ms. Raghu

2nd: Ms. Branstrator

Vote: Unanimous approval

The Environmental Commission meeting adjourned at 8:34pm. The next meeting will be September 4th, 2024.