



MINUTES: Environmental Commission

Date: November 2, 2022

Location: Area 1 Court House, 118 West High Street

Time of Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Chair, Mr. Jon Ralinovsky; Vice-Chair and City Council Representative, Ms. Chantel Raghu; Planning Commission Representative, Mr. Jason Bracken; Mr. Steve Elliott, Mr. Justin Fain, Ms. Heather Barrett, and Ms. Peggy Branstrator

Staff present: David Treleaven, Environmental Specialist, Staff Liaison

Public present: City of Oxford (Oxford) Community Outreach Specialist, Mr. John Buchholz, Climate and Sustainability Intern, Ms. Reena Murphy, and from the Miami University Institute for the Environment and Sustainability (IES), Ms. Suzanne Zazycki, Mr. Jared Nally, Ms. Madalyn Warnimont, Mr. Sam Schultheis, Ms. Anna Abey, and Ms. Katie Lockhart . Additionally, six Miami University geography students were present to fulfill a classroom requirement of attending a Board or Commission meeting

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Mr. Elliott
2nd: Ms. Barrett
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes for the October 5, 2022 Meeting

Motion: Mr. Fain
2nd: Ms. Barrett
Vote: Unanimous

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A) IES Professional Service Project: Project Description for the Investigation into Apartment Complex Recycling

Ms. Zazycki, IES's Associate Director, and the five IES students introduced themselves to the Commission. These students compose the team that are to undertake the professional service

project (PSP) investigating options for increasing recycling volume and/or establishing recycling programs for local multi-family housing. A sixth IES PSP student team member, Ms. Emily Anzalone, was unable to attend the Commission meeting due to a schedule conflict. The IES students inquired about the level of detail that the Commissioners were expecting from the PSP. After an inventory of existing apartments in Oxford that offer recycling to their tenants, the possibility of waste audits of the recycling and trash waste streams was suggested. An actual waste audit could potentially expose the student team members to potential health and safety issues (potential of encountering hypodermic needles for example), which is a concern. It was concluded that information pertaining to apartments' recycling and/or trash waste streams likely has already been performed, and may be available by contacting Rumpke and/or the Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste District. It was stated that the priorities for the PSP were to determine an inventory of where recycling is currently being offered to tenants and to identify what has worked elsewhere so that Oxford may attempt to duplicate or incorporate those program components into its efforts to increase recycling for apartments.

B) Recycling Options for Fridays' Red Brick Rally Events

In previous Commission meetings, the suggestion was made to have the Commission investigate and establish a recycling and/or food scrap collection program to be incorporated into Oxford's Red Brick Rally events during the summer of 2023. Commissioners envisioned this would entail coordination of the delivery and collection of containers, and scheduling personnel to be present at the collection points to guide people in the proper placement of the various materials. Several Commissioners indicated that they would volunteer their time to act as guides. Mr. Buchholz has coordinated past efforts of recycling and food scrap collections at Oxford events, and shared some of his experiences and observations with the Commissioners. Mr. Buchholz reiterated the need to have personnel present at the various collection stations to prevent co-mingling of trash and mixing of recyclable and food scrap materials. Mr. Buchholz has had good results utilizing various environmental clubs present at Miami University and the various Talawanda district schools. Mr. Buchholz also indicated determining what recyclable materials are present at the events is important. For example, his observations of past Red Brick Rally events indicated that, in general, that there was not very much recyclable materials generated, but mostly food scraps in the form of the compostable, plant-based drinking cups. However, the presence of food trucks at some of the past Red Brick Rally events increased the volume of potentially recyclable cans and plastic bottles, so who is participating at each event would need to be considered in determining the type of containers that will be necessary. Ms. Raghu mentioned that many of the compostable cups were placed into food scrap containers with their plastic straws causing co-mingling of trash with the compostable materials.

The Managed Natural Lawn Area (MNLA) legislation was tabled last month, with City Council and Oxford staff continuing to work on it. The suggestion was made to request that the MNLA legislation be returned to the Environmental Commission to allow for the opportunity to address concerns that were raised with the legislation, and provide for better definition and clarity, as the observation was made that the legislation appears to be too complicated at the present.



The following Motion concerning the managed natural lawn area was proposed by Ms. Raghu; Mr. Elliott was the second:

Motion:

The Environmental Commissions requests that the pending Managed Natural Lawn Area legislation be returned to the Commission for refinement to address issues and concerns that have been raised during discussions at City Council meetings.

The Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bracken indicated he shall request that the MNLA legislation be withdrawn and returned to the Environmental Commission.

Staff updated the Commission on the monthly emission monitoring event of the landfill's 23 passive gas vents. October's monitoring was the 25th event, and over the two years of observations, the monthly total estimated carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) for the entire landfill continues to be highly variable. September's estimated total CO₂e was 279 metric tons (MT), the second highest value observed during the monitoring period. The 25-monthly average CO₂e value was 159 MT.

Staff provided a summary of the on-going residential food scraps drop-off program. Through October 27th (186 weeks since the program's start in April 2019), the total weight of collected food scraps was approximately 138,930 pounds (69.5 tons), averaging 747 pounds per week. For the year 2022, a total of approximately 33,420 pounds (16.7 tons) had been collected in 43 weeks, averaging 777 pounds per week.

Approval of Adjournment:

Motion:	Ms. Raghu
2 nd :	Ms. Barrett
Vote:	Unanimous

Commissioners concluded discussions at 8:10 p.m. The next regularly scheduled monthly Environmental Commission meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on December 7, 2022, in the Municipal Building's first floor conference room.