



**Environmental Commission Minutes
Tuesday – February 6, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

The Environmental Commission meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Virginia Schmidt.

ROLL CALL: Present: Chuck Bonacci, Michael Walton, Shantanu Pahi, Sandra Banes, Lyn Tansing, Virginia Schmidt, Jonah Pichette, Sue Metzel, Alyssa Ursem
Also Present: Patrick Jeffers, Assistant Director of Engineering and Karen Labbe, Council Representative

SWEARING IN: Ms. Labbe swore in new Commission member Alyssa Ursem.

ELECTION OF TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON:

**Ms. Schmidt nominated Jonah Pichette for temporary Chairperson.
The Nomination was seconded. No discussion was presented.
Upon roll call, nomination was approved unanimously.
Jonah Pichette was elected temporary Chairperson.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May 4, 2023 minutes were approved, pending clarification and additions on Ms. Walker's comments on the Water Ordinance. Additional statements made by Ms. Walker are added to the 5/4/23 minutes.

Motion presented to approve 5/4/23 minutes as amended.

The Motion was seconded.

Motion unanimously passed.

September 5, 2023 minutes approved as amended. Minutes amended to add additional details from Mr. Turle's presentation and a question presented by Ms. Baines for Ms. Walker.

Motion presented to approve 9/5/23 minutes as amended.

The Motion was seconded.

Motion unanimously passed.

October 3, 2023 were approved.

Motion presented to approve 10/3/23 minutes as submitted.

The Motion was seconded.

Motion unanimously passed.



PRESENTATIONS: None presented.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- Mitch Edgecomb discussed his proposed ordinance to City Council to reduce single use waste, specifically shopping bags.
- Mr. Edgecomb gave an overview of his proposal to City Council.
- He discussed in great detail the benefits, the reasons this is important environmentally, cost comparisons, reducing waste, paper bags vs. plastic bags.
- He discussed the problems associated with recycling plastic bags and the cost associated with trying to recycle plastic bags. He stated there is a low plastic bag recycling rate.
- He also discussed the issues connected with the use of paper bags. This includes cost and harming the environment and forests.
- Mr. Edgecomb would like to propose evaluating our relationship with waste as a whole and he believes shopping bags are a fundamental part of our waste production and he believes shopping bags are one of the most convenient and easy types of ways to challenge and reduce.
- He is proposing that the City require businesses to use reusable bags and offer reusable bags to customers. He wants the City to transition to zero waste.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS:

- Mr. Walton did not have a report.
- Mr. Pahi did not have a report to share.
- Sandra Banes discussed the possible watering ordinance for residents. There is continued discussion for this idea. Members discussed the aspects of this proposal, including the criteria for a drought, information to share with residents regarding watering. She continues to question since there has not been clarification. Ms. Labbe stated she will look into this.
- Lyn Tansing discussed the upcoming infestation of Cicadas. She discussed treatment to help save the trees. She additionally discussed her visit to McDonald's and the possibility of recycling their drinking cups. She suggested a recycling container be used at McDonalds.
- Virginia Schmidt announced that Twinsburg Garden Club is hosting two educational opportunities at the Library – March 18th Seed Starting and April 6th Denise Ellsworth, Entomologist from OSU will be talking about attracting good garden bugs. She also discussed how we can “encourage” local restaurants to not automatically offer straws and for takeout orders offer more environmentally friendly containers.
- Mr. Pichette and Members discussed how the Commission can have conversations with local restaurants to “consider” the use of straws and other options for takeout orders.



- Sue Metzler discussed the International Water Tasting competition, February 22nd – 25th. It evaluates municipal water, purified drinking water, bottled water and sparkling waters from around the world.
- Alyssa Ursem shared her educational and work background.
- Jonah Pichette reported The Earth Day event is scheduled for April 20, 2024 at Liberty Park – 10:00am to 2:00pm. He has obtained the special use permit from Summit County Metro Parks. Mr. Pichette asked for ideas for activities the Commission can present at the Earth Day event. Members discussed various ideas for activities, including art projects, guided hikes, scavenger hunts and recycle activities.
- Mr. Pichette shared the tentative Shredding Day event is June 8, 2024. This will be confirmed. Patrick Jeffers will assist in coordination. The Waste Water tour is scheduled for August 7, 2024. The Waste Management recycling facility tour will be scheduled for a date in July.

COUNCIL REPORT:

- Ms. Labbe discussed Ordinance 23.121. This Ordinance changed the look of the Environmental Commission. It was changed to mirror other committees.
- She also discussed members reapplying for their committee positions.
- Ms. Labbe discussed additional questions and comments for Mr. Edgecomb regarding how business transition to not using plastic bags.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS, MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. Shopping Bag Waste Reduction Proposal
 - All members did not receive a copy of the Shopping Bag Waste Reduction Proposal.
 - Mr. Pichette discussed how this will be a recommendation from the Environmental Commission to City Council.
 - Members discussed how to support this proposal, including providing residents with reusable bags, the costs associated with initiation of this proposal, and how other counties are accomplishing waste reduction. More data is needed at this time.

**Mr. Pichette presented a Motion to table this discussion until the next meeting.
The Motion was seconded.
Motion unanimously passed.**

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: All members present.

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 5, 2024 at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.