



ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS BOARD

MINUTES

January 16th, 2019
Council Chambers, 1st Floor, City Hall
101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, NC

Voting Members – Matthew Kopac (chair), Jessalee Landfried (vice chair), Donald Addu (secretary), Roberto Valle Kinloch, Tyjuanna LaBennett, Rachel McIntosh-Kastrinsky, Laura Marie Davis, Casey Collins, Wafa Khalil, Matthew Herman, Matthew Pait

Ex Officio Members/Staff – Laura Woods, J.V. Loperfido, Tobin Freid, Heidi Carter

- I. **Call to Order at 6:03 pm**
- II. **Approval of Minutes, 11-0**
- III. **New Business and Continuing Business**

- a. **Renewable Energy Resolution** – Steven Hicks, Director of General Services addressed the EAB about concerns regarding the Renewable Energy Resolution:
 - Uncertainty from General Services if the goals of 80% renewable energy by 2030 and 100% renewable energy by 2050 was achievable
 - City funding for the goal and regulatory framework are concerns
 - Expressed concern that the renewable energy goal was not consistent with the city sustainability plan
 - General Services is working on a resolution that would achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and that resolution is to be submitted in March of 2019
 - Casey stated that the EAB is sympathetic to the challenges of being beholden to the utilities and it is our duty to encourage the state and the utilities commission to increase access to renewable energy for the city
 - There is not currently a plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 as it would need to be studied
 - The Renewable Energy Resolution was passed by the EAB in December of 2017
 - Donald asked what would be the risk in setting the goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050? Steven stated that it may not be achievable

- Rachel asked if it was possible to set both goals of 100% renewable by 2050 and carbon neutral by 2040
 - Steven remained concerned that the renewable energy may not be achievable
 - The EAB thanks Steven Hicks and General Services for sharing their input and concerns
- b. **TreesDurham** – Katie Rose Levin, Executive Director of TreesDurham, provided an update on planning changes and asked the EAB to support recommendations to the Planning Department:
- TreesDurham is a citizen lead advocacy organization with the goal of retaining 50% of Durham’s tree canopy to create a healthy, sustainable, and socially just city
 - Trees have positive health impacts including reducing heart attacks, Asthma and ADHA
 - Trees reduce crime and also increase water quality
 - The current tree planting code has become archaic and immediate updates are needed to maintain our canopy
 - There are updates that will be made as a part of the Comprehensive Plan however, we risk losing millions of trees over the next four years while the Comprehensive plan is developed
 - These updates will bring us in line with our neighboring cities as Raleigh currently has stronger protections than Durham
 - The following five recommendations are requested to be adopted by Planning by this spring:
 - Require new Developments to plant street trees next to the streets
 - Require a minimum of 10% of tree preservation onsite for all new developments 2 acres or more
 - Provide arborist plan review and construction oversight
 - Require a tree survey, verified by an arborist, of all trees required for preservation
 - Update the Landscape Manual
 - The city currently prevents developers from planting street trees next to the street
 - Tax payers are currently paying to plant trees and developers should be required to plant as well
- c. **Water Quality Update** – J.V. Loperfido, Assistant Water Quality Manager, provided an update on the state of Northeast Creek and Third Fork Creek:

Notice under the Americans with Disabilities Act - A person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the ADA Coordinator, voice 919.560.4197 or ADA@DurhamNC.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.

- Northeast Creek and Third Fork Creek both are consistently not meeting water quality standards
- Fecal Coliform bacteria is the main contaminate for Northeast Creek
- Possible remediation includes UV lights, replacing failing septic and address geese habitat
- Third Fork creek remediation includes street sweeping program, violation citations for developers and stop work orders.
- J.V. will provide more detailed recommendations to the EAB in late 2019

IV. Announcements

- Next EAB Meeting 2/6/2019 at 6:00 PM, 2nd floor Committee Room, City Hall
- Ammonia will not be added to the drinking water supply during March, only Chlorine will be used for that month
- Bull City Workplace challenge will host a water quality event from 9-10am on January 22nd and a waste event on February 21st at the Emily K. Center (904 W Chapel Hill St.)
- EAB would like to thank the Planning Department and the city council for their feedback on the EAB's support for the Expanding Housing Choices Initiative

V. Resolutions – Approval of the TreesDurham Planning Recommendations for Immediate UDO Update

VI. Vote, 11-0 in favor of the immediate UDO update

VII. Motion to move forward with the 100% Renewable Energy Resolution

VIII. Vote, 11-0 in favor of the 100% Renewable Energy Resolution

IX. Adjournment at 8:20 pm

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