

**TOWN OF CARRBORO
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD – SUMMARY**



Meeting on April 4, 2019, 7:00 pm, Town Hall Planning Department

Board Members		Guests	Staff
Sonia Desai	Kathy Kaufman	Barbara Stenross	Trish McGuire
Bruce Sinclair	Tim Turner	Elizabeth Honan	
Lyndsay Gavin		Elizabeth Honan	Board of Aldermen Liaison
Jeanette O'Connor		Keith Barnhouse	Sammy Slade

Note: Absent/Excused: Andrea Wood (resignation submitted to Town Clerk)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair Tim Turner.

Approval of Minutes – March 25, 2019 meeting

A motion to approve the minutes for the March 25, 2019 meeting, subject to the edit noted by staff to remove the words “Lloyd Farm” in the Action Item related to the FLX district recommendations, was made by Kathy Kaufman and seconded by Bruce Sinclair. The vote in favor of approval was unanimous.

Discussion Items

Chair Turner suggested reordering the discussion items as Alderman Slade was not yet in attendance. The group agreed.

Announcements

Chair Turner announced the following requests, which had not yet been addressed:

- 1) Scheduling an agenda item on establishing time limits on discussions. The EAB discussed briefly. A proposal to test a three-minute time limit for each member, on each topic, was made, similar to that Jeannette O'Connor described as in use by the Board of Aldermen. After each member had a chance to comment, the group would check-in to see if anyone needed more time. Everyone agreed with testing the concept at the meeting and scheduling for discussion at a future meeting. Motion to use such a time limit structure was made by Bruce Sinclair and seconded by Kathy Kaufmann and the vote in favor was unanimous.
- 2) Staff liaison sending agenda to chair and vice-chair prior to sending final meeting agenda. Staff will check into this and report back to the chair.
- 3) Increasing size of the EAB/adding additional members to allow interested individuals to be able to join. With resignation of Andrea Wood, a seat is available; immediate concern has been resolved.

Clean Energy Resolution Discussion

Chair Turner introduced the item and noted that the purpose of recommending Board of Aldermen action was not clear because of similarities to the 2017 resolution. Alderman Slade noted that it might be confusing, and that it would be helpful for the EAB to examine all the climate-related resolutions and make sure appropriate targets are noted. Three options were noted: recommend the current draft resolution, recommend an alternative resolution/tweak this one, and fold the actions into implementation of the Climate Action Plan – work that has been assigned to the EAB. All present were provided an opportunity to comment:

Lyndsay Gavin – not clear what passing the resolution would accomplish

Sonia Desai – strengthen resolution to set 2030 as the goal for 100 percent renewables

Kathy Kaufmann – aligns with the Green New Deal. Need to begin discussion of Climate Action Plan. Resolution is Carrboro-specific, but okay to change to 2030. Thinks the references to climate science are up to date.

Bruce Sinclair – very similar discussion in Chapel Hill when considering adoption, with some concerned about credibility if targets were not met. CH did pass the resolution. Adoption of this resolution, so similar to 2017, might be confusing.

Jeannette O'Connor – Orange County has adopted. As was decided by the Climate Action Task Force, believes it was/is necessary to make a difficult goal that must be worked at to be attained.

Tim Turner – A mission statement is needed. The Climate Action Plan is big and diffuse, the resolution helps create a mission and focus. It is ambitious and worthwhile to do this – this is what we stand for.

Keith Barnhouse – agrees with changing date of 100 percent renewables to 2030.

Barbara Stenross – set goal sooner and higher. Very concerned about ecosystems – to what extent can Carrboro achieve. The more teeth, the better. (O'Connor mentioned EAB recommendations for electric car charging infrastructure requirements to be part of town development standards)

Elizabeth Honan – appreciate the EAB's setting goals to work towards. There is a need to push, to set a high bar, to consider providing infrastructure, for electric cars and other things.

Elizabeth Honan – resident of Chapel Hill and opposed to continued coal fuel for UNC plant. Words are most important – this is an environmental crisis. Specify operative goals – what ought to be done. Think about the health impacts, make sure environmental justice is addressed.

The EAB discussed the resolution and comments.

A motion was made by Jeannette O'Connor to table action on the resolution was made to allow time to revise it to include reference to a deadline that is sooner (e.g. 2030), to contextualize it to Town goals and the Green New Deal, and to recognize climate justice and climate emergency. The motion was seconded by Kathy Kaufmann and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Sonia Desai offered to coordinate revisions to the resolution via Google Docs or similar.

Discussion of Southern Centurion Post Oak Tree at Century Center

The Bartlett tree risk assessment and mitigation plan and Michael Everhart's Treecycle presentation were reviewed. Staff summarized that it had been decided that removal of the tree was needed, due to its condition and proximity to pedestrians, passing and parked vehicles. The EAB's input on methods for recognizing its loss in the short and long term, and selecting its replacement. All present were provided an opportunity to comment:

Lyndsay Gavin – liked the Treecycle ideas, especially with new library going in – possible tables. Noted when a redwood was taken down on Berkeley Campus, a table made from a cross-section slab had tree rings marked to coincide with events in the school's history.

Sonia Desai – Plant the number of trees in replacement needed to substitute for the ecosystem value of this tree (related to ghg reduction, air quality benefits).

Kathy Kaufmann – No thoughts on type of replacement (Trish noted some requirements related to overhead power lines) Furniture commemorating the tree.

Bruce Sinclair – Made into something useful with a plaque to recall /connect. Suggested sale of bits – like the brick sale used for the town commons – to raise money to preserve trees elsewhere.

Jeannette O'Connor – Good ideas! Also notes that Frank Porter Graham Elementary is redoing playground – big project – natural design. Would probably love to have benches or arbors – since Post Oaks weather resistant, might also be good as posts or other material for community gardens. Plant something native!! (Trish mentioned PW ideas on propagating offspring – resonated with EAB).

Tim Turner – Agrees re: native replacement. Suggest that the wood be provided free or sold to local artisans who could be commissioned to make pieces that could be put on display. Town should hold itself to standard regulations, most rigorous standards for replacement that others must meet and adhere to them. It is determined to be a specimen, plant one elsewhere.

Keith Barnhouse – Likes all the ideas. Knows a beautiful library in Ann Arbor that used ash trees from the site throughout. The tree's longest life may be to incorporate it into a structure.

Barbara Stenross – Post oaks are so special and she loves them. They are slow growing and the attention to this tree is much appreciated. Don't forget the chips that are also of use when a tree is taken down.

Elizabeth Honan – Make tiny pieces into souvenirs of visits to town. Don't waste any of it.

Elizabeth Honan – Letting the town know as soon as possible, with a very clear message that the tree is coming down. Some mention and discussion of the stormwater utility intern working to document emissions reduction and stormwater value related to large urban trees – note the signs around town. Final thoughts – create a natural bench at the site, leave some of it standing. Staff to check with stormwater utility to determine if the air quality benefits are being estimated also. Staff to also check LUO and let EAB replanting requirements.

A motion was made by Bruce Sinclair to submit a compilation of these comments to the Town staff for consideration (after review by the EAB). The motion was seconded by Lyndsay Gavin and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Community Solar Discussion

Chair Turner introduced the item, noting that he and Bruce Sinclair had proposed a solar installation on the landfill on Eubanks Road three years ago. Renewed interest related to an Atlanta project that had used a draping materials, which countered some concerns related to settling as the landfill materials decomposed over time. There are some issues with siting due to the prohibition on breaching the cap on the landfill and not interfering with the methane recovery. Turner and Sinclair plan to reopen this discussion, form an LLC and pursue a private or public-private partnership to develop a 5-7 MW array on the 35 acres. Seeking encouragement. Some members expressed interest in knowing more.

Additional Discussion

The EAB also discussed:

- The Green Growth Toolbox
- Inviting an ecologist to evaluate the property proposed for FLX Zoning
- A request to ask the Town Attorney about the ability of the Town to amend the Land Use Ordinance

Adjourn

The motion to adjourn was made by Jeannette O'Connor, seconded by Sonia Desai, with all members voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 pm. The next meeting will be on May 2, 2019. Chair Turner noted that he will not be in attendance

Items of interest for discussion at May 2, 2019 meeting:

- 1) Climate Action Plan
- 2) Discussion of ecological information related to the Zinn property proposed for the Eubanks/Old NC 86 rezoning.

Items of interest for possible discussion at a future meeting:

- 1) Green Growth Toolbox (Sonia will send info via email).