

EAC minutes 3/5/09

Present: Anthony Starr, Marcus Jones, Marijane Pell, Rich DeSimone, Dave Lowles, Jeff Jennings, Ron Ehlinger, Adrienne Outcalt, Larry Rogers, Jim Fickes, Chuck McGrady

Absent: Angela Fernandini, Tom Davis,

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:34.

Approval of minutes

Marijane Pell requested that the Etowah/Horseshoe discussion be added agenda, and the previous meeting's minutes were approved unanimously.

Land Development Code Amendments

Dave Lowles asked Anthony Starr about the Land Development code. Anthony mentioned that nothing substantial had developed since the last EAC meeting other than it being put on the agenda for the April 6^{th} Commissioner's meeting.

Candidates for Membership

Jim Fickes was introduced as the newest member. He shared some of his backstory with the committee.

Etowah/Horseshoe

Anthony gave some background on the issue. He discussed the issues that the Etowah/Horseshoe community had identified as important points. He mentioned that the plan that the community had developed would be discussed at a meeting on March 26th, and that the main purpose would be to familiarize the Commissioners with the plan.

Dave asked for more detail on the environmental issues that had been identified. Anthony mentioned that they were advocating more stringent storm water regulations, prohibiting waterline extensions, an open space plan be developed and stringent steep slope regulations as well as water treatment concerns. Dave identified that the environmental concerns of the Etowah/Horseshoe committee overlapped quite a bit with the concerns of the EAC and recommended that someone from that area be considered for a position on the EAC. Marijane voiced her support for the idea. Chuck McGrady gave

his perspective. There was some discussion of communities developing different and separate plans. Dave proposed attending the March 26th meeting and reading Etowah's community plan.

Energy Plan

Marcus informed EAC that a strategic plan had been developed by the County Commissioners and brought the committee up to date on overall county efforts based on the direction outlined therein. He mentioned that there had been development since the performance contract in how monies would be moved and applied to different maintenance funds, and was optimistic about the contract moving forward sooner than the 9 months it had been tabled for. There was some discussion of the CNG station and its status as a shovel ready project and how stimulus money would be directed to it. Marcus talked about his meeting with Land of Sky Regional Council and the role they are playing in the stimulus plan.

Dave talked about the need for education on exactly what performance contracting means, and mentioned that Land of Sky Regional Council had been helpful in this effort. There was discussion on Land of Sky and other regional councils.

Energy Statistics

Adrienne Outcalt discussed the latest quarterly report on resource consumption, and updated the EAC on audit efforts and resource tracking.

Stormwater Master Plan

Marcus Jones spoke about the storm water master plan. He said a grant had been received from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, but Chuck wondered if the money was still there due to the Governor's cuts in budgets. Marcus assured him that the County had a signed contract with the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, and that the money was still there. There was some discussion of progress that had been made with McGill and Associates.

Dave asked if there were any topics for the next meeting's agenda, and Anthony mentioned that Edneyville's plan was close to having another hearing, and recommended that Dave put it on the next meeting's agenda along with the Etowah Horseshoe plan. Dave agreed to this.

Adjourn

Marijane moved to adjourn the meeting, Rich seconded, and Dave adjourned the meeting at 4:40 pm.

The next Environmental Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 3:30 in the 100 North King Street Conference room on Thursday, April 2nd 2009.

Respectfully submitted by Adrienne Outcalt.