



Environmental Advisory Committee MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, April 4th 2024

In Person: King Street Meeting Room - 100 North King Street

Members present: Nancy Diaz, Chris Berg, Joe Criscione, Jere Brittain, Deb Johnston, Jay Naparstek, Ben Witmeier, Kevin Campbell

Other present: Amy Schmitte, Janna Bianculli

- 1. Approval of February Summary **Unanimous****
- 2. Approval of April Agenda **Unanimous****
- 3. Informal Public Comment **N/A****

4. New Business

- Implementation of 2045 Comp Plan discussion BOC approved 2045 comp plan at last board meeting now moving on with implementation. Implementation involves many different county boards and committees. EAC could play a role in some of the more environmentally focused goals/actions from comp plan. Currently still working on implementation and priorities but will know more at next planning board meeting. Will be 18 month process so the EAC has time to be involved, can try to plan for a work session at a future meeting.
 - General approach to implementation of comp plan: All recommendations and action steps go into matrix to be prioritized. This will include 5 year plans for the 20 year plan. Staff will give suggested priority list to the planning board then they decide their priorities. Actions will be approved by the BOC. Big items: Land Development Code Rewrite, hoping to hire consultant for this task. Any rezoning will include the community.
 - Text amendments: Any one can submit for a text amendment (fee involved) for the LCD.
 - Text amendment plan for comp plan: comp plan can be amended through rezoning, if any changes are made to future land development, comp plan must be changes to reflect. Other option for changes to comp plan: 5 year review and 10 year rewrite and amendment wanted it will go through formal court of hearing but must be commissioner initiated.Not everything needs to be in the comp plan. Ex) Require developers building apartments to have EV charger. This can still be presented even if it is not in the comp plan.
- Clean up for AAH on Berkley Road



EAC has adopted a stretch of road ~~west~~ along Berkely Road. SDOT will be putting up a sign the says HC Environmental Advisory Committee. Signs not in place yet. Committee to organize first clean ups (minimum of 4 clean ups per year). Ideas for clean ups: Invite commissioners, other advisory board members, public, past EAC members. EAC to organize first litter clean up along AAH during Spring Litter Sweep on Wednesday, April 24th at 10am until 11:30am. Meeting at the greenway parking area. Amy will send calendar invite and email reminders, will coordinate with DOT for supplies, and Sheriff VIPS for traffic control and safety. PIO and communications will be invited for press to encourage community members to adopt highways in the county to tackle litter in the County. Former EAC members will be invited to the first clean up. RSVP to Amy. Work to schedule follow up clean ups in at the next meeting. Look at late August and November dates.

5. Old Business

- a. ECO Heroes award program (Jr. and adult recognition) Reviewed current ECO Hero info, social media, press release. Flyer will be available at upcoming events. Amy will send info to schools to disperse in PeachJar newsletter, social media post, and press release. Accepts nominations year round on rolling basis, will plan to do nominations in Fall at BOC meeting. EAC looking to nominate 3 adult and 3 youth awards in 2024. Will send to BRCC as well. September 14th is Latino Conservation Week, good week to plug Eco Hero program. Nancy going to translate to Spanish for social media posts.
- b. Subcommittee groups
Tree canopy group working on a draft, will send to committee for review once ready. Will be in form of memo from Committee, have staff review first, will contain recommendation for BOC to task planning department with reviewing current Land Development Code along with other relevant rules, policies, or guidelines related to tree preservation, protection... Purpose to assess adequacies of current guidelines and consider future increases with population and development expected in the County. Focusing on the positives and how this will benefit the County. Nancy suggested focusing on tree canopy preservation vs tree preservation. Some difficulty finding data that shows the changes in tree canopy.
- c. Field trips/guests
Guests: Still interested in Floodplain- Amy will ask Toby Ward Sequin- previous ECO hero- Is a retired meteorologist has spoken at the planning board. Amy will reach out to schedule.
Field trips: Possible trip to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) with the Waste Reduction Team

6. Environmental Programs Update

Mountain True organizing tour of Convenience center- Amy to lead tour. April 18th at 4:30pm.

- a. Spring HHW/Paint Collection Last events until the Fall.



- i. April 9th and May 14th
- b. Foam collection
 - i. 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the Month
- c. Compost Program update [Backyard compost bin pre sale for residents taking place now.](#)
 - i. Spring Compost Bin Pre-Sale April 1st-May 31st
- d. EV charger update [In place at the courthouse overflow lot. Hopefully online and in use by July.](#)
- e. Grants [Solid Waste received grant for second HHW storage building at Convenience center.](#)
- f. Community events
 - i. NCDOT Spring Litter Sweep- April 13th-27th
 - ii. Earth Day Fest-April 20th
 - iii. Mills River Day- May 4th

7. Next meeting

- a. Thursday, June 6th [Possible project to consider at the next meeting DEQ multifamily recycling grant.](#)

8. Adjournment