

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD

OCTOBER 2009

Regular Meeting

Municipal Building, Training Room
Thursday, October 1, 2009- 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- A. Call to Order
 - 1. Introduction of EQAB members and recognition of visitors
 - 2. Recognition of Recording Secretary:
 - 3. Amendments to the Agenda
 - 4. Announcements

- B. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held September 3, 2009
(Attached)

- C. Action Items Update (Joe Wood)

- D. Presentations

- D. High School Representatives (Courtney Walls; Mike Burns)

- F. Report on DOE-related matters (from EQAB Regulatory Oversight Committee and DOE representative David Page)

- G. Communications
 - 1. Memorandum to Oak Ridge City Council from EQAB; Resolution to develop an ordinance to ban open burning in Oak Ridge, September 4, 2009
 - 2. Oak Ridge Reservation Annual Site Environmental Report for Calendar Year 2008 (available for review at meeting)
 - 3. Status Report to the Public, Fiscal Year 2008 TDEC DOE, Oversight Division (available for review at meeting)

- H. Staff Report (Athanasia Senecal)

- I. Planning Commission (Chuck Agle)

- J. Special Projects
 - 1. Sustainability (Green) Initiative
 - 2. Outdoor Burning
 - 3. Other

- K. Reports on External Organizations
 - 1. Local Oversight Committee/CAP (LOC)
 - 2. Anderson County Solid Waste
 - 3. Special Projects

- L. Unfinished Business
 - 1.

- M. New Business
 - 1. EQAB Elections (Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary)
 - 2. Potential Solar Energy Demonstration Project (Ben Terpstra, ORHS Student Intern)

- N. Adjournment

cc: City Manager
City Clerk
Amy Fitzgerald
Athanasia Senecal
Laura Davis, Fire Dept.
Steve Byrd, City Engineer
Oak Ridger
Knoxville News-Sentinel
Oak Ridge Observer

Environmental Quality Advisory Committee

Minutes: September 3, 2009

Members Present:

Boyd Carter
Pat Fain, Secretary
Jimmy Groton, Chairman
Joan Nelson
Bruce Nigh
Joe Wood
Courtney Walls
Pat Imperato
Chuck Agle, Rep. Planning Commission
Fred Stephens

Members Absent:

Mike Burns
Robert Kennedy

Guests:

David Page, DOE
Ellen Smith

City Staff:

Athanasia Senecal

Meeting convened 7 pm, quorum established

Minutes: approved as amended: motion Boyd Carter, second Joe Wood; passed

Action Items: Joe Wood

These have been updated. Email other updates to Joe. These will now have two tabs, Open and Completed.

School Report: Courtney Walls

School has been in session only two weeks. There are no announcements yet on environmental club. Jimmy sent email to interested school teachers concerning upcoming events.

DOE: David Page

Parcel ED-6 EA: The EA was referred to Washington for review.

Environmental Assessment of Happy Valley (Parcel ED-3): This was a tent city during construction of K25 in 1942. A draft should be forthcoming in a couple of months.

Next Thursday night the Site Specific Advisory Board will have a discussion of mercury releases that was historically used in lithium isotope production. It was released and during rains, was absorbed into clay in the form of mercuric sulfide. How to handle continued release from Y-12 due to rain will be topic. 6pm, next Wednesday at DOE Information Center.

Communications: Jimmy Groton

The EQAB memo to the Planning Commission was sent and copied to City Council

Horizon Center: this has historically been mostly a green site, but there is a disturbing trend by CROET is now using this site for a proposed mixed waste site. There will be a

meeting on this at the library Sept 23. CROET already owns the site. There is an issue of deed restrictions: may be limited to processing rather than including storage.

We received an email from TDEC August 23 concerning the possibility of penalties unless the city reduces solid waste by 20%. It was pointed out that with recycling, we may be getting there right now. Need to check the increases in recycling.

Staff Report: Athanasia Senecal;

There is a special called meeting on the waterfront by the Planning Commission Sept 10. They have our recommendations.

There has been a clear cutting of 42 trees on city property on Westover Drive. The Codes Enforcement Department intends to prosecute as this is city property.

Sustainability: There are several work sessions scheduled during the month. A discussion was held concerning the format and style of the report. The narrative part of the report has not yet been written. Pat Fain agreed to write a draft narrative and forward to all members. Individual topics were assigned to each member to put into Gant Chart format and to be sent to Joe for compilation immediately for inclusion in the report.

Open Burning: Pat Imperato

A resolution to ban all open burning in Oak Ridge was presented to the board for discussion. Motion to send resolution to City Council by Pat Imperato and seconded by Boyd Carter. Motion passed unanimously.

LOC News: Boyd Carter

Boyd has attended only one meeting so far; nothing new to report.

Rotary Club: Pat Imperato has volunteered to speak to the Rotary at their invitation concerning our work on sustainability.

Weed Awareness Week: Jimmy Groton

Resolution for city to recognize weed awareness week: A motion was made by Jimmy to endorse resolution of the Tennessee Exotic Plant Council for Weed Awareness Week 2010 and to partner with TCWP to host an event the week of Feb. 22-24, 2010 and to explore opportunities to have an invasive plant workshop with staff. Seconded by Joan Nelson. Passed unanimously

Procedure on Public Correspondence: EQAB communicates directly to the City Council and to other boards. Public/press releases come from the city.

Earth Day: April 24, 2010. This will be the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. EQAB will participate as a cosponsor and will plan some interesting activities.

Adjourn: 10 pm

RECEIVED

2009 SEP -4 PM 1:26

MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Date: September 4, 2009
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
From: Athanasia Senecal
Subject: Ban on open burning

The attached resolution was adopted by the Environmental Quality Advisory Board on September 3, 2009 and is being submitted for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Athanasia Senecal", written over a horizontal line.

Athanasia Senecal

Attachment

Resolution

Whereas, visible smoke from open burning is composed of particulates which contain toxic pollutants; and

Whereas, if inhaled these microscopic particles can reach deep into the lungs and remain there for months or even years; and

Whereas, open burning can increase the risk of cardiac arrhythmia and heart attacks, aggravate respiratory conditions such as asthma, bronchitis and emphysema, and cause rashes, nausea, or headaches; and

Whereas, open burning produces volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which are harmful to humans and contributes to ground-level ozone pollution, also known as smog, which can worsen respiratory, heart, and other existing health problems; and

Whereas, burning with air curtain destructors (ACD) produces visible smoke and causes a nuisance to nearby properties; and

Whereas, the City of Oak Ridge provides residents with services for alternative disposal of yard waste; and

Whereas, developers have access to private sector services to dispose of vegetative waste.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE:

That City Council is hereby requested to direct staff to prepare for the Council's consideration an ordinance that bans open burning, including burning or incineration with an Air Curtain Destructor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said ordinance may provide allowances for residents' use of backyard barbecues, smokers and wood-burning stoves and burning for forestry and habitat management, and may allow celebratory bonfires with permits.

This is the 3rd day of September 2009.



Chair, Environmental Quality Advisory Board