

City of Florence
Environmental Management Advisory Committee
October 22, 2015 ~ Regular Session 2:00 pm

The proceedings of the City of Florence Environmental Management Advisory Committee were recorded on tape and on file at Florence City Hall.

Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

Chairperson Bonnie MacDuffee called the meeting of the Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) to order at 2:05 pm. Others present included: Vice Chairperson (VC) Sharon McLeod, Sandra Davidson, Wendy FarleyCampbell, David Lloyd, Erika Bessey and Guest Jenna Bartlett. David Twombly, Larry Barney, Josh Haring, Joan Delano and Dan Webb were absent.

Chairperson MacDuffee said that because the Committee did not have a quorum, the September Minutes would be set aside.

Public Comments

There were no members of the public present.

Chairperson MacDuffee asked the committee if they proposed any changes to the agenda, and there were none.

New Business

Green Fair Back Brief – Jenna Bartlett reported that the 2015 Green Fair had been pushed back one additional week from the Home Show which made it easier for the Committee however it did not have to remain in May. She went on to explain that the goal of getting more family and children to attend had been met, yet vendor participation had been down. Ms. Bartlett commented that one struggle was how to keep the Fair fresh and alive, to appeal to family and children, continue to attract the vendors who are interested in selling product and she welcomed feedback and suggestions from the EMAC Committee. She went on to say that she had done research on similar Expos, indicated that Portland hosted a very successful event. She stated that the participation of the City Lights Cinema had been positive. CP MacDuffee said that Washed Ashore expressed interest in getting more involved with workshops and educational exhibits. She went on to explain that she was in favor of the idea and would be looking for sponsorships. Ms. Bartlett expressed the challenge of generating interest in groups and organizations outside of our area that would be willing to participate in a one day event but, was still hesitant over the prospect of extending the Fair to a two day event. Davidson asked if there had been thought given to possibly combining the Green Fair with and garden show and Ms. Bartlett explained that the Home and Garden show already had many vendors and that they had wanted to keep the Green Fair a separate event. Ms. Bartlett continued that they still wanted to keep the event going. Davidson asked what it might look like to hold the event in the month of December. There was discussion regarding the fact there were so many activities already scheduled during December, the possibilities of other months, table fees, sponsorships, other event fee breakdowns and it was concluded that the event should stay as close to Earth Day as possible. FarleyCampbell reported that the Rhody Express was interested in continued involvement however they would want to be positioned inside the building. Ms. Bartlett expressed that due to

the amount of work that went into the Recycled Art component and the lack of notable displays that were contributed she would not be in favor of having it a part of the event next year. FarleyCampbell reiterated that it was work intensive although she and CP MacDuffee reminded it was a great avenue that drew more kids to the event and CP MacDuffee commented there could be adjustments made for improvement and there was discussion regarding possible changes to make the event more successful.

Goal 2, Objective 7 – Solid Waste Rate Study – Next Steps:

FarleyCampbell reported that she had talked with Andy Parks, City's Finance Director and distributed a draft of the updated scope of work for the Solid Waste Rate Study. FarleyCampbell went on to explain the fixed rate system that Chris Bell had crafted, detailed elements, proposed changes and some pros and cons of going to a weight-based system. McLeod asked if there had been any thought to having the consultant look at use-based versus weight-based systems, FarleyCampbell explained that it would require that the haulers have a digital scale for measuring, and McLeod confirmed it was an expensive initial installation but it did save in the end. FarleyCampbell noted that there had been consideration given to the licensing methodology because the fee schedule had not changed since 1997 and added that another change being considered was the Public Good portion that would depend on Florence residents being given the opportunity to pay for the parks, downtown and transit stops trash pick-up. She indicated that Public Works still picked up the trash at the City Park locations. FarleyCampbell explained the continued fixed rate system for the haulers, the provision of the electronic spreadsheets of the proposed rate schedules to include the CPI, the proposed process and the projected State and County rate increases. It was decided that there would be a preliminary draft by the December meeting and it would go to Hearing by March.

McLeod made a motion to accept the drafted contract and approve it with the proposed changes. Bessey seconded the motion. By voice, all ayes, the motion passed.

Old Business

Household Hazardous Waste Preparation – There was a brief Committee discussion regarding the volunteer schedule and MacDuffee said that she would be willing to cover any time that was needed.

Foam Food and Beverage Container & Plastic Bag – FarleyCampbell discussed the two sets of survey results and said that with the one requested change regarding distributing it to the restaurants as well as the general public there had been 134 responses which was a big increase. FarleyCampbell provided the breakdown with seven responses coming from local food related businesses. There was Committee review and discussion over the responses and it was clear that many participants were in favor of the ban and others were in favor of education with the idea of encouraging less use rather than a regulated banning. FarleyCampbell indicated that the next effort would be going door to door, said the inquiry would be closing on November 4th however the food related business form could be extended.

Committee Discussion / Report Items – City Hall Kiosk, Flo-Grow, Other

There was no new business on the Kiosk however Davidson asked if the box for the batteries had been sent for shipment and FarleyCampbell said she would check with Public Works to see if it had been sent there. FarleyCampbell reported that there would be 2 more Flo-Grow give a-ways with one of them held on a Saturday so that more of the community would be able to participate. She also said that after the next two give a-away days, there would be a charge established

possibly beginning in January 2016 and it would not be bagged. She said she would request that Mike Miller attend the next meeting and there was brief discussion regarding the idea of giving the haulers the equal opportunity to deliver and finally it was decided to discuss it further at the next meeting. FarleyCampbell reported that the population numbers for Florence would be out on November 1st and although she was certain it would not be at the 10,000 mark for a few more years, the significance was to be thinking about adding two additional recycling opportunities. She said that projection toward the Yard Debris would also trip the Flo-Grow. She concluded with the update of recent information she had received regarding the Flo-Grow compost site, bird fly hazards, and it only being allowed near an aviation / airport location if food was not included. MacDuffee requested a Master Recycler contact person and FarleyCampbell said that Kelly Bell was the County level contact and Davidson said that she would get local contact information and follow up with MacDuffee.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2015 2:00PM

Upcoming Events:

Hazardous Waste – October 23rd & 24th

Adjourn

CP MacDuffee adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE EMAC ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2015.

Chairperson, Bonnie MacDuffee

Date