ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Environmental Advisory Board of the City of Raleigh held a meeting on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 303, Raleigh Municipal Building, 222 West Hargett Street, Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, Raleigh, North Carolina, with the following present:

BOARD MEMBERS
Anya Gordon, Chair
Rob Gelblum, Vice Chair
Aranzazu Lascurain
Beverley Clark
Brian Starkey
Todd Kennedy
Larry Larson
Justin Senkbeil

STAFF
Cindy Holmes, Sustainability Office

VISITORS
Gary and Jane Smith
Tito Obaisi

ABSENT

CITY COUNCIL

I. Call to Order
Ms. Anya Gordon called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes
The minutes from the October meeting were approved as amended.

III. Public Comment
Gary and Jane Smith introduced themselves as visitors interested in the work of the board. Tito Obaisi also introduced himself. Tito is with Hungry Harvest, a for profit food recovery business expanding into Raleigh.

IV. Presentations
Comprehensive Plan Update report
Brian Starkey led a discussion on the draft Comprehensive Plan update report. The board members reviewed the draft document and after some discussion recommended approval of the revised document. A copy of the final report agreed upon by the board and submitted to the Planning department is attached to the minutes.

V. Staff Reports

a. Urban Agriculture Day Update
Cindy Holmes provided a brief update on Urban Agriculture Day held on October 21, 2017 at the Historic Mordecai Gardens Visitor Center. She stated that about 20 citizens were in attendance including some of the Urban Agriculture Grant winners from the 2017 Environmental Awards program. The event included reports from the 2017 urban agriculture grant recipients, a reading of the Bee City Proclamation and a panel discussion on community gardens.

b. Grant Opportunities
Ms. Holmes reviewed the existing grant opportunities that are available for urban agriculture and community gardens by the City of Raleigh.

1. The EAB's Urban Agriculture Grant as part of the Environmental Awards program. The grants are intended for a community garden or urban agriculture project that benefits a community in Raleigh.
2. The Housing and Neighborhoods Department provides Neighborhood Improvement Funds to encourage and enhance neighborhoods. There are two levels of these grants which range in amount from $250 up to $1,000 for a variety of projects including pollinator habitat, community gardens, urban agriculture and tree planting. In addition, the Housing and Neighborhoods Department also has a Community Enhancement Grant program.

c. Environmental Awards Update
Ms. Holmes reminded the board members that the Environmental Award application is open now. She encouraged the members to share information about the program with interested community members. Awards winners will be honored at a celebration and networking event on March 22, 2018 at the old City Market at 214 Martin Street in downtown Raleigh.

d. Climate Energy Action Plan (CEAP) Update
Ms. Holmes discussed the update that is underway on the Climate Energy Action Plan. She also mentioned the recent presentation that was provided at the City Council work session. The board members had a brief discussion relating the results of the recent Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and the CEAP project.

VI. Election of Officers

The board members voted on their officers for the next year and elected Anya Gordon, Chair and Todd Kennedy, Vice Chair.

VII. Other Business/Announcements

The board members cancelled their December meeting.

VII. Upcoming Meetings/Events

Environmental Awards Applications - November 13- January 26, 2018
Environmental Awards Celebration - March 22, 2018

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Attachment: Comprehensive Plan Update Report submitted to Planning