

APEX ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date:
July 16, 2020
6:00 p.m.



Apex Public Works Administration
Building
Conference Room
105-B Upchurch St.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

Hal Langenbach, Chair
Katie Schaaf, Vice Chair
Tim Carley
Laura Duggan
John Garrison

Michael Rusher
Marilee Szczerbala
Jessica Wilkerson
Ted Williams

The Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) meeting was called to order by Chair Hal Langenbach at 6:00pm. Members present were Chair Langenbach, Vice-Chair Katie Schaaf, and Board members Tim Carley, John Garrison, Marilee Szczerbala, and Ted Williams. Members on conference call (in listen only mode) were Mike Rusher, Jessica Wilkerson, and Laura Duggan. No members were absent.

Council member Brett Gantt was in attendance and Town staff members present were Current Planning Manager Amanda Bunce, former non-voting staff secretary to the EAB and Environmental Engineering Manager Jessica Bolin, current non-voting staff secretary to the EAB and new Sustainability Program Coordinator Megan Pendell, and support staff Sustainability Analyst Valeria Mera.

After Chair Langenbach reminded the board that the last meeting's minutes were forwarded on July 1st, a motion was made by Chair Langenbach to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2020 meeting and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Langenbach asked staff member Bolin for updates to the Town's Sustainability Program. Staff member Bolin introduced the new Sustainability Team, Megan Pendell and Valeria Mera, who shared their backgrounds. Staff member Pendell will serve as non-voting staff secretary to the EAB for meetings moving forward.

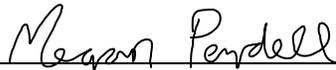
Chair Langenbach asked staff member Bolin for updates on the EAB web page and for the board's comments on how to use the website to interact with the public effectively. Vice Chair Schaaf suggested taking comments from the website and reviewing them from a document at the board meetings, at least on a quarterly basis. Board member Carley suggested that the staff and an attorney should filter these comments before it gets to the board. Chair Langenbach asked what information about board members should be included on the website. Board members Carley and Szczerbala agreed that only names and email addresses should be included, member Garrison suggested including board meeting time and location. Board member Carley made the motion to include names, email addresses, and meeting information, motion was seconded by Vice Chair Schaaf and unanimously approved. Council member Gantt recommended including board member's term information. Chair Langenbach made the motion to include terms, motion was seconded by board member Carley and was unanimously approved. Both motions were carried.

Chair Langenbach introduced the rezoning review process and staff member Bunce led the conversation and introduced a document to facilitate understanding. Chair Langenbach reminded the board that the information staff member Bunce was presenting related to council member Gantt's suggestion for the board to begin talking to developers. Questions regarded (1) the standardization of suggested zoning conditions, (2) the pre-application process, (3) school and traffic concerns surrounding new development, (4) the application breakdown of professional and non-professional developers, (5) expected volume of applicants, (6) the parameters the board will use to review requests, (7) where the EAB fits into this rezoning application process, (8) what aspects of the application the board will specifically review, (9) how the EAB relates to the UDO, (10) the duration of average re-zoning process were raised by the board, and (11) how much direction the board will receive from the Town Council. These questions were addressed and answered in detail by Amanda, with support from Jessica B., and discussed among the board.

Chair Langenbach opened the floor to the priority list discussion. Board member Szczerbala brought up her ideas about updating Apex's plants and tree list in order to support a healthy ecosystem and biodiversity, creating an education campaign about recycling, and one day organizing an annual clean-up day for Apex along roadways within the ETJ. Staff members Amanda and Jessica reminded that some staff are working with TreeCAP and BeeCity related to these goals.

Chair Langenbach requested the board's feedback on whether or not to hold future board meetings online. Vice Chair Schaaf agreed that a virtual meeting allows other board and community members to participate more easily. Chair Langenbach stated that unless anyone opposed, the next meeting will be virtual and take place on Microsoft Teams.

Board member Carley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm, the motion was seconded by Board member Garrison. The motion was approved unanimously and carried.


Megan Pendell, non-voting staff secretary

ATTEST:



Hal Langenbach, Chair