



Environmental Advisory Board

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

6:00 PM

Conference Room 10035

**316 N. Academy Street, Cary Town Hall, Cary, NC
27513**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.1 **Environmental Advisory Board - Advisory Board Meeting - Feb 7, 2017 6:00 PM**
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Old/New Business**
 - 5.1 **Block Leader Program**

Sarah Justice, Environmental Outreach program Coordinator Parks, will share information about the Block Leader Program, 25 Years and Beyond.
 - 5.2 **Spring Daze**

Emily Barrett, Sustainability Manager, will lead a discussion on the Spring Daze Sustainability Booth Theme ideas.
 - 5.3 **LED Street Lights**

Rick Savage, EAB Chair will lead a discussion on the LED street lights.
 - 5.4 **Special Event Sign Ups**

Volunteer Sign Up sheets will be available for Arbor Day, Spring Daze and Herbfest.
6. **Council Liaison Comments**
7. **Chair Announcements**
8. **Sustainability Update and Staff Liaison Comments**
9. **Member Sharing**
10. **Administrative Announcements**
11. **Adjournment**

Please contact Sustainability Manager Emily Barrett at Emily.barrett@townofcary.org or (919) 469-5125 with any questions about this agenda.

The Town of Cary is committed to providing all citizens with the opportunity to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person with a disability who needs an auxiliary aid or service in order to participate in any meeting may contact the Town Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The email address is virginia.johnson@townofcary.org; the phone number is (919) 469-4011; the TDD number is (919) 469-4012.

Environmental Advisory Board
Tuesday, February 7, 2017
6:00 PM
Conference Room 10035
316 N. Academy Street, Cary Town Hall, Cary, NC 27513

1. CALL TO ORDER

At Large Representative Patricia Barry: Present, At Large Representative Caitlin Burke: Absent, At Large Representative Susan Lawson: Present, At Large Representative Scot Merkle: Present, At Large Representative Rick Savage: Present, Technical Madhura Karnik: Present, Partner Christina Trexler: Present, Partner Shweta Nanekar: Present.

Sanjana Vadlamudi (Teen Rep)
 Lori Bush, Council Member
 Emily Barrett, Sustainability Manger
 Virginia Johnson, Town Clerk

Chair Danna Widmar resigned from the board due to being hired by the Town.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to change the name of item 5.2 to Climate Change Adaption Resiliency and change item 7.1 to Chair Appointment.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Patricia Barry, At Large Representative
SECONDER:	Scot Merkle, At Large Representative
AYES:	Barry, Lawson, Merkle, Savage, Karnik, Trexler, Nanekar
ABSENT:	Burke

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Patricia Barry, At Large Representative
SECONDER:	Scot Merkle, At Large Representative
AYES:	Barry, Lawson, Merkle, Savage, Karnik, Trexler, Nanekar
ABSENT:	Burke

**3.1 Environmental Advisory Board - Advisory Board Meeting - Nov 1, 2016
 6:00 PM**

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Feb 7, 2017 6:00 PM (Approval of Minutes)

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Patricia Barry, At Large Representative
SECONDER: Scot Merkle, At Large Representative
AYES: Barry, Lawson, Merkle, Savage, Karnik, Trexler, Nanekar
ABSENT: Burke

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Wilson shared he attended an EAB meeting in the fall and was encouraged that his feedback was included. He would like the Town to consider a wildlife habitat for the future while there is still land available and before the next revision of the PRCR master plan, he feels this is cutting edge environmental stewardship. He hopes that some board members might consider joining his group of expanded thinkers in these preliminary discussion.

Henry Boyter provided feedback regarding the Town's new website in regards to environmental/sustainability issues. He wants to see the webpage used as an educational tool, a place where people can write in and address specific topics and the response would be written back on the page, and potentially an *Ask Emily* column.

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

5.1 2017 Kick-off Review of Goals and Work Plan

Savage led a discussion on the EAB Goals and Work Plan attached to and incorporated here in as **Exhibit A**. The work plan was approved by Council in January. Discussion and notes from this meeting were added directly to the table attached to and incorporated here in as **Exhibit B**.

5.2 2246 : Climate Change Adaption Resiliency

Merkle presented the work he and Savage have been gathering - resource information to address climate change issues and the impact of it. They feel the focus on needs to be on adaption and resiliency instead of mitigation - Cary could go to zero greenhouse gas emissions and still be confronted with climate change effects. It makes more sense to focus on the changes and resilience to recover.

The Town has done many important things to reduce greenhouses gases but climate change will affect the area because we aren't able to downscale to Cary alone.

The Southeast region can expect:

- A temperature heat rise of 3 - 6 degrees by 2050
- Changes in weather patterns
- Flooding in areas that weren't anticipated

Although sea level rise may not affect the area directly, it will impact others causing those impacted to migrate to new areas. This will draw a myriad of social and physical effects that

could occur because of climate change.

The goal is to look at a high level - Identifying impacts to the Piedmont region, asking what critical infrastructure is most vulnerable, looking at gap analysis and looking for ways to suggest improvements and adaptations for the Town. Many of these issues overlap with sustainability.

Many communities and organizations are developing Climate Change Action plans focusing on:

- Health
- Food Production
- Structural/architecture
- Environmental ecological impacts

Merkle asked for board participation to expand the work effort.

Savage stated they've found 80% of the resources - it's a matter of netting out summaries and referencing the reports.

Barrett shared, the Town relies on the board to advise and the input is valued. She hopes the board will review the agreement of work that is currently being developed by Triangle J Council of Governments who is coordinating a proposed partnerships between municipalities and local governments to collaborate on a resiliency planning effort hoping to include the Triangle area of Cary, Chapel Hill, City of Durham, Durham County, Orange County, and Wake County. This may be the first collaborative planning initiative in the Southeast and it's appealing because the region can cost share.

The group has also reached out to the National Environmental Modeling and Assessment center NEMAC in Asheville to lead some of these discussions. NEMAC has developed a tool kit to help communities identify their assets with a relative threat risk and visualize some of the threats to the most important local and regional assets.

Bush stated the Town has an Emergency Management Continuity of Services plan. It is primarily tactical. These other plans are more strategic.

Barrett shared that the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be updated at the County level in 2020. The hope is to incorporate some of the products of the regional resiliency assessment into the plan to make it more in-depth.

Members agree that the reports and work need to be both strategic and tactical.

The Triangle Regional Resiliency Project - the focus is on resiliency planning/assessment and

February 7, 2017

looking at weather patterns and there is a strong level of support.

Carrboro recently passed a Climate Action Plan that the board should look at to see what ideas might fit, remembering the differences in community size, culture etc. The plan mentions working at the neighborhood level.

5.3 Sustainability Web Page

Board members stated the sustainability topic/link was difficult to find and should be contained in:

- Projects and Initiative heading on the landing page
- About Cary section (which is currently under Recreation and Enjoyment) but it should be a stand-alone heading, members are looking for the history, goals, mission statements, projects and initiatives under the *About* section of corporate websites
- Photos change depending on the time of day, season, etc.

Bush stated that this website is a living and evolving, staff can update and make changes daily and she encouraged members to use the purple feedback button at the bottom of the screen to communicate ideas with staff.

6. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS - COMMENTS MADE BY BUSH UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Imagine Cary Plan or the Cary Community Plan was approved on January 25th.

The Council Retreat was at the end of January and they did planning. There was a change in policy concerning medians that may interest the board. In the past, if the median was four feet or smaller the developer could choose stamped concrete or brick and most developers would choose cost effective concrete. Now if the median is under four feet, it needs to be brick, and if it is over four feet, it needs to be planted. Also there were some changes to two and three foot medians to be planted depending on the type of road it is on. Major thoroughfares are dangerous for people to plant, because of the maintenance. There are some provisions for plantings on two foot and three foot wide medians for planting.

Homeowners Associations are responsible for 60% of medians in Cary as part of their rezoning agreements. Most of Cary Parkway medians, from Old Apex to Highhouse are maintained by HOA. The Town budgets about one million per year on maintenance of medians and the cost is about \$20 per household.

Most of the plantings west of 55 have been completed.

Bush spent six hours in a snow plow and learned about their operations and what they do with the salt and filler. There is only one place in Cary where the salts is stored, at James Jackson, so trucks need to continually return to that location to refill.

7. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 2247 : Chair Appointment

February 7, 2017

Chair Danna Widmar was hired by the Town as Director of Special Projects and will not be able to serve in the capacity of Chair for the EAB.

Vice Chair Savage was appointed by Bush to the chair position to ensure a smooth transition. The board will appoint a vice chair at the March meeting.

The term is one year, and there is no term limits on Chair.

8. SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE AND STAFF LIAISON COMMENTS

Contact Barrett directly with if there are things you want to discuss or know more about.

9. MEMBER SHARING

Savage mentioned that World Wetlands announced a new organization, the Wetland Forest Initiative - it will cover 14 southeastern states, to promote value and preservation of wetland forests, forests are great carbon stores. It will be run by 20 different organizations. Carolina Wetlands is also involved and Savage is serving as co-chair for the Wetland Forest Initiative.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:33.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Patricia Barry, At Large Representative
SECONDER:	Madhura Karnik, Technical
AYES:	Barry, Lawson, Merkle, Savage, Karnik, Trexler, Nanekar
ABSENT:	Burke

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Feb 7, 2017 6:00 PM (Approval of Minutes)

Environmental Advisory Board Goals/Work Plan October 2016 -September 2017

GOAL 1: Provide Input to Council and Staff on Existing and Emerging Issues

Town Planning and Implementation

- Provide feedback on the Cary Community Plan implementation, with particular attention to recommendations regarding innovation, environment, transportation options, and energy.

Energy

- Provide feedback to the Sustainability Manager on Strategic Energy Action Plan implementation and updates
- Provide feedback for energy efficiency and renewable options
- Recommend strategies for additional reductions
- Research fleet management plan on electric and hybrid vehicles
- Research LED street lights

Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling

- Advise on ways to improve or increase solid waste reduction opportunities for citizens

Jordan Lake Drinking Water Supply

- Monitor new Jordan Lake rules development
- Encourage Town participation and leadership in stakeholder discussions

Town Policies and Efforts

- Support development of sustainability standards for sustainably operating buildings and facilities
- Work with Town staff to recommend modification to the LDO to include native plants, and environmentally friendly turf grass and fertilizer standards for new developments

Open space issues

- Support implementation of Goal 1, Objective 1.1 of 2012 Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Master Plan: Continue to protect areas that are ecologically important and have a high wildlife habitat value

Other Emerging Issues

- Tracking and reporting metrics--Encourage use of STAR or other metric system to measure progress on key sustainability indicators
- Carbon Reduction-- Investigate ways of measuring community-wide carbon footprint and discuss means of reducing it

Climate - Resiliency, Adaptation & Mitigation

- Track resiliency, adaptation, and mitigation issues.
- Identify actions the Town is already taking to promote resiliency and do a gap analysis.

Opportunities for Regular Collaboration with Other Boards

- Explore ways boards can regularly collaborate and consult with one another.

GOAL 2: Advise Staff on Opportunities to Increase Environmental Awareness and Public Participation

Sustainability Communications Plan

Identify ways to the Town can better communicate its organizational commitment to innovation

Initiatives and On-going Efforts

Identify educational and promotional opportunities

- Cary Green Neighborhood Project
- Cary Garden for Wildlife - Provide education on how to deal with interactions between urban wildlife and citizens
- Strategic Energy Action Plan
- Solid Waste Reduction
- Interpretive Panels

Participate in Cary Community Events

Save dates. Board members will volunteer for two or more events each year.

Work with Community Groups to Support Environmental initiatives

- Black Creek Watershed Association
- Block Leader Program
- Information Services Advisory Board
- Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources - Collaborate on interpretive signage

<p>Jordan Lake Drinking Water Supply</p>	<p>Savage (Burke – Savage with follow up)</p>		<p>Savage has been in touch with a representative of the Haw River who wants to talk to people at the Farmer’s Market. He hopes to have him address the board.</p>	
<p>Town Policies and Efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support development of sustainability standards for sustainably operating building and facilities • Work with Town staff to recommend modification to the LDO to include native plants, and environmentally friendly turf grass and fertilizer standards for new developments 	<p>Barrett</p>		<p>Barrett Town is refining and finalizing an operational standard. This is a tactic in the Strategic Action Energy Action Plan.</p>	
<p>Open Space Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support implementation of Goal 1, objective 1.1 of 2012 Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Master Plan: Continue to protect areas that are ecologically important and have a high wildlife habitat value 	<p>(Burke – Savage with follow up)</p>		<p>Town had multi-department meeting about Open Space planning.</p> <p>Bush stated that land has been banked but no future land that has been identified.</p> <p>Barry suggested the board may identify areas that may have the best wildlife habitat and review the Open Space Plan.</p>	

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Feb 7, 2017 6:00 PM (Approval of Minutes)

<p>Other Emerging Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracking and reporting metrics-- Encourage use of STAR or other metric system to measure progress on key sustainability indicators Carbon Reduction-- Investigate ways of measuring community-wide carbon footprint and discuss means of reducing it 	<p>Merkle Savage</p>		<p>Twenty one metrics for evaluating communities with STAR. Generally a reasonable approach. Cary doesn't have a community wide greenhouse gas inventory – minimal penalty with STAR, realistic expectations.</p> <p>Savage and Merkle will be discussing Climate Change Adaption and Resiliency.</p>	<p>February</p>
<p>Climate – Resiliency, Adaptation & Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track resiliency, adaptation, and mitigation issues Identify actions the Town is already taking to promote resiliency and do a gap analysis 	<p>Merkle Savage</p>		<p>Listed above (Other Emerging Issues – Carbon Reduction)</p>	<p>February</p>
<p>Opportunities for Regular Collaboration with Other Boards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore ways boards can regularly collaborate and consult with one another 			<p>Review other board work plans on-line</p>	

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Feb 7, 2017 6:00 PM (Approval of Minutes)

GOAL 2: Advise Staff on Opportunities to Increase Environmental Awareness and Public Participation

Objectives and Sub-topics	Lead	Task	Notes	Milestone Date
Sustainability Communications Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify ways the Town can better communicate its organizational commitment to innovation 			Work with ISAB, to have them review Communications Plan possibly over the summer	
Initiatives and On-going Efforts				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cary Green Neighborhood Project 	Justice			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cary Garden for Wildlife – Provide education on how to deal with interactions between urban wildlife and citizens 	Justice			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Energy Action Plan 	Barrett			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solid Waste Reduction 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretive Panels 	Barry		Barry and Barrett walked the greenway and discussed placement of Environmental Interpretive Panels annually – one in a newer park and one in an older park. Currently funded. Placement of rocks or signage to prevent mowing in areas. Placement this year will be at White Oak and Marla Dorrel Park	
Participate in Cary Community Events	All	Save dates. Participate in two or more events.	Arbor Day, Spring Daze, Herb Fest, Lazy Daze	
Work with Community Groups	All			
Black Creek Watershed Association				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Block Leader Program 				

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Feb 7, 2017 6:00 PM (Approval of Minutes)

• Other Groups				
• Information Services Advisory Board				
• Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources				

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Feb 7, 2017 6:00 PM (Approval of Minutes)