

EQAB

April 6, 2017, meeting

Board Membership: Two positions are still open for 2017. Anyone interested in serving on EQAB is encouraged to contact the city manager's office.

The Planning Commission, having collected and organized citizen comments made at its kickoff meeting for creation of an Oak Ridge Blueprint, asked each city advisory board to provide a response to those comments. EQAB will select topics pertaining to its responsibilities. Ms. Bogard is drafting this document for other board members to modify at a working meeting April 20.

A review of 2016 goals highlighted the tree plan, which has been presented to the city. Trees were prominently featured in citizen comments at the Blueprint kickoff meeting. EQAB conducted a tree workshop honoring Pat Imperato at the UT Arboretum. They participated in the selection of the energy services company that has been hired to achieve savings of \$10–15 million in combined municipal and school system energy expenditures.

Mr. Applegate reported that the city will set a work session on the tree plan, and include city council and EQAB.

During a discussion of additional 2017 goals, board members' suggestions included tree pests, tree maintenance, and new policies regarding homeowner tree-cutting and tree policy (number of trees per acre) for developments.

Ms. Zheng and Mr. Sujithkumar discussed the lack of recycling opportunities at Oak Ridge apartments and at sports events at Blankenship Stadium, respectively. It was agreed that volunteer groups should be enlisted to move these efforts forward.

A working group (Bogard, Kennedy, Applegate, and Sujithkumar) will review the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and plan a five-year report on its status, to assess Oak Ridge's progress. This review will be valuable in reeducating citizens about the CAP's history and achievements.

Board members signed up to work at the Erase Your Trace recycling event held on Earth Day, April 22.

~Marion Burger, Observer