

EQAB

June 1, 2017, meeting

The EQAB will have a new City staff liaison. Because of expanded responsibilities with the City, Bruce Applegate will no longer serve in that position. Sandy Sexton, Assistant to the City Clerk, will be the new liaison.

In the past, the two Oak Ridge High School representatives, currently Trip Chinn and Adithyan Sujihkumar, have shared a single vote on the Board. They now each have one vote, making it easier to get a quorum. They will work to establish recycling at Blankenship Field.

EQAB has established the goals for 2017. The four goals with the highest priority are:

- Revise and submit the City Tree Plan for the Urban Forest to City Council for approval. A memo from City staff sent in April recommended that the Tree Plan be received by City Council and not adopted. The memo suggested that adding maintenance staff to the Parks and Recreation Department would be a better fit for the City than hiring an arborist as proposed in the tree plan.
- Establish strategies for pest control and treatment of diseased trees. Electric Department Director Jack Suggs spoke at the May meeting about the Emerald Ash Borer, and he requested a partnership with EQAB to do public outreach. Board member Mr. Dean will draft a letter to Mr. Suggs recommending a consultant. EQAB will also collaborate with the UT Arboretum to present a community workshop on the Emerald Ash Borer.
- Issue a Climate Action Plan (CAP) status report – a 5-year review.
- Stream and road trash cleanup.

EQAB will propose working with Keep Anderson County Beautiful (KACB).

Bruce Applegate is working with ORNL to produce geographic information system (GIS) pictures of the community that could identify areas most in need of clean up.

~Kathryn Olsen, Observer