

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
July 17, 2012

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its scheduled meeting on July 17, 2012, in the Upper Merion Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

The following members of the EAC were present: Chris Kaasmann, Ed Campbell, Vivian Peikin, Sal Sonsino, Dan Yarnall, Sandy Moskowitz, Upper Merion Area High School Student Member Smriti Chauhan, Board of Supervisors Liaison Greg Waks, and Staff Liaison Janet Serfass.

The following members of the EAC were absent: Janet Medrow.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of 6/19/12 by Ed Campbell, and seconded by Sandy Moskowitz. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Serfass met with Jay Kowal and Dan Russell to discuss the placement of the EAC's rain barrel. The council decided to place it as well as a bench, informational sign, and possibly a small garden at Heuser Park. The EAC members discussed water flow, and will be scheduling a meeting with the contractor for this project.

Ms. Peikin and Mr. Yarnall agreed to contact Dan Russell in reference to participating on the Earth Day Planning Committee on behalf of the EAC.

Mr. Waks reported that the Board of Supervisors would like to hear a presentation from the EAC in reference to trash hauling options and their impact on the roads and environment, as well as their costs at their September workshop meeting. This will give the Supervisors time to review the information and take action on it if they chose. He also mentioned that a new social media policy is being created, but has not been adopted as of yet and the EAC can post their previous forums on YouTube if they choose.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Chauhan introduced herself, and explained her interests in environmental issues as well as efforts she has already made to bring light to environmental issues.

Mr. Kaasmann explained a number of environmentally conscious initiatives that other municipalities are taking. First he explained an EPA program called "Green Power Communities" in which a community purchases a certain percentage of renewable energy, and are provided with free materials from the EPA to get businesses and residents to join the effort. He explained the State Electronics Challenge, in which the state gives assistance to municipalities to help them purchase greener computer equipment, conserve energy and paper, as well as dispose of obsolete computers in an environmentally safe way, and would like the EAC to look into these efforts to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Kaasmann also mentioned that he has become aware of other municipalities creating sustainability plans alongside the Montgomery County Planning Commission to create benchmarks for goals for stormwater, renewable energy, etc.

LIAISON'S COMMENTS:

Ms. Serfass commented that the community fair is September 8th, from 10am to 2pm, and that the EAC should email recsec@umtownship.org to participate. She also explained that she will be meeting with Mr. Campbell in reference to the upcoming stormwater forum.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Chris Kaasmann, Chairman

Minutes Approved: 08/21/2012

Minutes Entered: 08/27/2012