ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING February 21, 2012

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its scheduled meeting on February 21, 2012, in the Upper Merion Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

The following members of the EAC were present: Chris Kaasmann, Vivian Peikin, Sandy Moskowitz, Sal Sonsino, Dan Yarnall, Janet Medrow, Board of Supervisors Liaison Greg Waks, and Staff Liaison Janet Serfass.

The following members of the EAC were absent: Ed Campbell.

Also in attendance were Steve Dadio of T&M Associates, and Lydia Dan-Sardinas of the Economic and Community Development Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of 1/17/12 with minor corrections by Vivian Peikin, and seconded by Sal Sonsino. Motion passed unanimously.

T&M STORMWATER PRESENTATION:

Steve Dadio, a soil scientist with T&M associates came to the EAC meeting to address current happenings and speak about stormwater issues in Upper Merion Township. He explained that he is assisting the township staff in coordinating the MS4 program (municipal separate storm sewer system program) which was established by the EPA as part of their nationwide clean water act, and is administered by the DEP. This program addresses stormwater as a pollutant and how to manage it, and Upper Merion Township will have to file a notice of intent by September 2012 stating that they plan on being in compliance. Mr. Dadio also explained that the EAC should be concerned with public education, outreach, participation, and involvement efforts. He also described several educational materials and gave suggestions for educational programs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Kaasmann reported that the energy works forums were successful, receiving 20-30 people during both the day and night sessions. Ms. Moskowitz collected comments and reported that most in attendance had learned of the forums through social networking efforts. Ms. Moskowitz also asked for approval for reimbursement for supplies she had purchased for the forum. Lydia Dan Sardinas had a discussion with the EAC members in reference to confusion between the two committees and how to communicate better moving forward. There was a discussion held in reference to potential resources and speakers for the forum being held in April.

Mr. Waks reported that a cleanup is being set up for the former Gold's Gym site now owned by the Township, along the woods and creek; however dates have not yet been set up. Mr. Kaasmann also reported that he met with township staff in reference to electronics recycling and possibly hosting collections at the farmers market, but that this had not yet been approved by the Board of Supervisors.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Waks reported that the Board of Supervisors are looking into adding a high school student to the EAC for a one year term, with no voting abilities. Mr. Sonsino made a motion to allow this, and Dan Yarnall seconded. The motion passed unanimously and will be included on the Board agenda in the near future. He also mentioned that the EAC has a facebook page that they are free to use.

Mr. Kaasmann made mention that Representative Briggs Green-fest will not be happening in Upper Merion Township, so it will not interfere with earth day activities.

LIAISON'S COMMENTS:

Ms. Serfass commented that there was nothing new to report on the Stanley Kessler site and that all storage tank removals are ok. She mentioned that she would forward information in reference to an environmental grant to the EAC and the Park and Recreation Department for consideration. She also reported that she would be forwarding information pertinent to Earth Day to the EAC from Dan Russell. Ms. Serfass commented that there is an annual EAC conference at Montgomery County Community College, if any EAC members are interested.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17pm.

Chris Kaasmann, Chairman

Minutes Approved: 3/20/12

Minutes Entered: 3/22/12