

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**  
**March 13, 2013**

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its scheduled meeting on February 13, 2013, in the Upper Merion Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**ROLL CALL:**

The following members of the EAC were present: Chris Kaasmann, Dan Yarnall, Sal Sonsino, Vivian Peikin, Sandy Moskowitz, Staff Liaison Janet Serfass, Upper Merion Area High School Student Member Smriti Chauhan, and Board of Supervisors Liaison Greg Waks. Also in attendance was Kate Galer from the Lower Merion Township EAC.

The following members of the EAC were absent: Kate Pietrowski, and Ed Campbell.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of 2/13/13 by Vivian Peikin, and seconded by Sandy Moskowitz. Motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Kaasmann reported that Ms. Pietrowski met with Emily from the Park and Recreation department in reference to revising the nomination form for the going green awards program to make them applicable to Upper Merion Township and will send them out via email. Ms. Galer commented that Lower Merion's EAC has a similar program in which the awards are sponsored by local vendors and can be self-nominated or nominated by the EAC. The program is advertised on their website and quarterly paper as well as in blogs and press releases to local newspapers. Mr. Kaasmann will also ask Ms. Pietrowski for an update via email pertaining to the planning process for the upcoming Earth Day celebration.

The council discussed the community forums and decided to have Energy Works come to the township building for a presentation on May 13<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Serfass will check room availability and Ms. Moskowitz will create the press release and flyers.

Ms. Serfass received a plan showing the design and drainage (including flowers) for the rain garden project as well as instructions for maintenance. She will be looking into finding a bench, possibly on costars, made from recyclable material. The EAC would like to dedicate this project as a gift to the Upper Merion Township Tricentennial Committee and would like to have a sign placed on site to this effect. The council plans to have this project completed by Earth Day, and a motion to approve the design was made by Ms. Peikin and seconded by Mr. Yarnall. All were in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The EAC held a discussion with Ms. Galer in regards to the missions and current projects of both groups including: rain gardens, compost sites, trash collection, stormwater ordinances, and environmental forums.

Mr. Kaasmann announced that the joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 9pm. The council also discussed looking into creating a seed sharing

initiative. Ms. Peikin will reach out to Judy Vicchio in reference to obtaining some of the bulbs that were donated to the township.

**LIAISON'S COMMENTS:**

Ms. Serfass commented that she had Ms. Pietrowski's name added to the EAC's webpage as well as a link to the County and State e-recycling initiatives. She mentioned that many other townships are using E-Force Recycling who is offering to host a recycling event on May 4<sup>th</sup> at no cost to the township, but that she will have to speak with the Township Solicitor to make sure that this is allowable. Mr. Kaasmann abstained from commenting on this matter. The EAC also discussed the possibility of having such an event at the township building instead of Heuser Park.

Ms. Serfass also explained that the trash hauling staff committee met again and was in the process of reviewing all municipal hauling information. Todd Lachenmayer is working on collecting prices for equipment, labor, containers, hauling routes, tipping fees, and manpower. The committee is on track to deliver a presentation to the Board of Supervisors early next quarter.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Waks announced that another citizen board called the Board of Community Assistance has been formed as a result of the casino's coming to Upper Merion Township. The casino is required to donate a minimum of \$142,500.00 to non-profit or 501C3 organizations, which may be environmental organizations in Upper Merion or those that provide services to the residents of Upper Merion Township. There is also a scholarship program being created for high school students.

Mr. Waks commented that there was a Tricentennial fundraiser at the California Pizza Kitchen on March 14<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned that he attended the Delaware Valley Green Building Council 2013 PA-NJ Sustainability Symposium. Mr. Waks attended sessions on sustainable communities, green schools, as well as waste trash and fuel and reported that the new CFO at Waste Management is James Fish, and the New Chairman of the PA Public Utilities Commission is Rob Paulsen.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

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Chris Kaasmann, Chairman

Minutes Approved: 04/10/2013

Minutes Entered: 04/11/2013