

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**  
**July 10, 2013**

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its scheduled meeting on July 10 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, Ed Campbell, Sandy Moskowitz, Sal Sonsino, Kate Pietrowski, and Dan Yarnall.

Also in attendance were the following members of the Park and Shade Tree Commission: Jerome Ocker, Michael Sullivan, Walter Dempsey, and Staff Liaison William Schutter.

The following members of the EAC were absent: Vivian Peikin, Staff Liaison Janet Serfass, and Board of Supervisors Liaison Greg Waks, and Upper Merion Area High School Student Member Smriti Chauhan.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of 5/8/13 by Sandy Moskowitz, and seconded by Sal Sonsino. Motion passed unanimously.

**MEETING WITH PARK AND SHADE TREE COMMISSION:**

Mr. Ocker with the Park and Shade Tree Commission commented on two grants that were received by the commission related to trees in township parks. The first is to perform an inventory of trees in Heuser Park, the Township Building Park, Bob White Park, and Executive Estates Park. The inventory will be taken using iTree and two training sessions will be held, one on Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, and the other on Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at the township building from 6pm-9pm. This program will supply valuable information that will help to create a new parks master plan, as well as a plan to manage the tree canopy for long term health. There will also be economic and environmental values given to the trees, which helps to justify investing in them. After the training is held a number of Saturdays will be scheduled in September for volunteers to gather the tree inventory data. The second grant will be awarded to plant 40 trees in Heuser Park and the connector trail to Bob Case Park. The tree planting will take place on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the Park and Shade Tree Commission is looking for as many volunteers as possible, as well as asking the EAC to help spread the word.

Ms. Pietrowski explained the Toyota Green Grant which requires a partnership with a local Audubon Club. This grant provides for projects that have something to do with the health of birds. The EAC and Shade Tree Commission discussed creating a dedicated space to become a bird sanctuary. Ms. Pietrowski will draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors asking for permission to pursue this project. The EAC and the Park and Shade Tree Commission talked about ways to better enhance communication about projects between committees.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Kaasmann reported that the rain garden collection demonstration dedication was held on June 26<sup>th</sup> at Heuser Park in honor of Upper Merion's Tricentennial. The event will be

aired on UMGA-TV. He also mentioned that Jourey Newell will be meeting with the Park and Recreation Board to further discuss monofilament recycling.

The EAC members spoke about the spraying of weeds within the township and mentioned that they should learn what the contents of the spray are so that questions from the residents may be answered.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Kaasmann reported on an educational training opportunity with Yellow Springs Farm, which would qualify as the educational requirement for the township's MS4 permit.

The EAC also discussed the fact that cat tails are overrunning the township pond and stated that it is no longer able to support fish. The township Park and Rec Department may have to relocate the trout rodeo to another pond.

**LIAISON'S COMMENTS:**

Ms. Serfass reported to the committee that the final rain garden collection demonstration report had been submitted to the DEP, and that the trash hauling presentation has been put on hold by the Board of Supervisors and will be rescheduled for an upcoming workshop.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

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Chris Kaasmann, Chairman

Minutes Approved: 08/14/13

Minutes Entered: 08/19/13