

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JULY 19, 2016**

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its scheduled meeting on July 19, 2016 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.

ATTENDANCE:

John Weilnau, Chairman
Kathryn Vaccaro, Secretary
Christopher Kaasmann
Sal Sonsino
Brittany Grala (late arrival)
Janet Serfass, Staff Liaison
Krista Scheier, Montgomery County Health Division District (Special guest)

ABSENT:

Sandra Moskowitz
Greg Waks, Board Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

John Weilnau asked if there was a motion to approve the May 16, 2016 meeting minutes. Kathryn Vaccaro motioned for their approval. Christopher Kaasmann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

John announced that many items would be discussed at tonight's meeting and introduced Krista Scheier.

OLD BUSINESS:

BCA Grant Extension / BCA Grant for Rain Barrels.

John announced that the EAC received a \$2500 grant from the Board of Assistance for a rain barrel educational seminar-give away. Krista has agreed to hold the seminars.

Group discussion recommended (1): using all of the grant money to purchase the most-preferred rain barrels; (2): requiring proof of residency for those who register in advance in order to qualify for the give-away of one of twenty free rain barrels; (3): applying a co-pay towards the purchase of rain barrels. Janet Serfass recommended purchasing stackable rain barrels. Members preferred holding the seminar indoors. Janet suggested reserving a room. Krista Scheier requested putting a gutter-attachment piece on display.

John suggested holding the event on the morning of September 10, the same day that the Farmers' Market is holding "Green Day." Members' approval resulted in John asking for a motion. Sal Sonsino moved. Chris Kaasman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

In response to John's comment, Krista confirmed that the Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) received the DEP's Environmental Education Grant. An updated work plan will be followed-up on at the Board of Supervisors meeting on August 18. If the Board approves, SAN's first activity is to install the award-winning storm-drain decal at Norview Farm.

Another formation of the same decal will be installed on a storm drain in front of the DEP Office at Main St. and Swede in Norristown on July 29th.

SAN is also working on getting an updated storm drain medallion. Instead of the Philly Water logo it will say "Upper Merion Township" and its number to report dumping. The school district and the King of Prussia Mall have indicated an interest in having these markers installed on their respective campuses and properties.

Krista added that an order for new stream signs is in the works. The Public Works Department will assist in their installation. Other deliverables, such as educational magnets and vehicle magnets, are in the works for spring. Janet Serfass commented that magnets may tear the paint off township vehicles. John recommended selecting stickers that can be applied to the inside of a window.

John congratulated Krista on receiving the grant and offered the EAC's help in any way it can.

Weed Ordinance / Meadow update.

John described an area between the new trail and the sewer plant where a meadow could be installed. Krista described a technique to prepare the area for a stormwater BMP and suggested mowing the meadow's edges to make it look like a beautiful, maintained space. Members and liaison welcomed her suggestions.

In response to an inquiry about funding, Krista commented that the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund's Letter of Intent process will be ready in February or March 2017. The EAC will keep Scott Sibley in the loop and request approval for this project from the Board of Supervisors.

Bottle Filling Station.

John is awaiting a response from Alan Robinson to obtain a more exact Operations and Maintenance figure.

Township Solar Panel Feasibility.

The EAC will await a follow-up from Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager, who recently applied for the Solsmart Community Designation Program, a County grant that awards feasibility studies to townships.

Superfund Sites.

John thanked Kate Vaccaro for putting together summaries of the superfund site.

Clean the Parks / Schuylkill Scrub.

Park and Recreation is committed to holding this event annually but a date for 2017 hasn't been selected.

Updating EAC's "Goals".

John offered the following quote: "Assist the township in meeting its municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) requirements." Janet suggested submitting a proposed mission statement to Dave Kraynik. Kate offered to coordinate the task. John agreed.

Confirm the township’s “OK” of the EAC Facebook page.

John will contact Allison Pimm, the new Public Information Officer.

Community Gardens.

Chris Kaasmann met with Greg Waks about the Park and Recreation Department’s open Master Plan which has not been formally been adopted and includes a section on community gardens.

NEW BUSINESS:

Open EAC position.

John will contact Dave Kraynik.

Student Position.

Members discussed the selection of a high school or college student as a member of the EAC. Chris Kaasmann will pursue the search with local school and college administrators.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Event.

Chris is following up on Carole Kenney’s request to hold a hazardous waste disposal event in the township.

Trash cans at bus stops (not recycling containers).

Chris will draft a letter to submit to SEPTA or COMCAST. Janet recommended contacting Bob Rudzinski in Safety & Codes.

Bob White Farms recycling/waste management.

Chris elaborated on a communal agreement for recycling and waste management that has procured decent prices from one or two companies for neighborhood trash and recycling services. Chris stated that the Township’s Foundation may explore the idea.

LIAISONS’ COMMENTS:

None.

SUPERVISORS’ COMMENTS:

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

In response to John’s question, Sal motioned for adjournment. Kate seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

John Weilnau, Chairman

Minutes Approved: August 16, 2016

Minutes Entered: August 17, 2016