

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its scheduled meeting on September 20, 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
Katherine Vaccaro, Secretary
Sandra Moskowitz
Brittany Grala
Linda Castro
Greg Waks, Board Liaison
Janet Serfass, Staff Liaison

ABSENT:

Christopher Kaasmann
Sal Sonsino

John Weilnau welcomed the EAC's newest member, area resident Linda Castro, who provided a brief overview of her career and hobbies.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

John Weilnau asked if there was a motion to approve the August 16, 2016 meeting minutes. Sandy Moskowitz motioned for their approval. Katherine Vaccaro seconded. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

The BCA Grant for Rain Barrels:

The Board of Community Assistance's Grant funded a very successful rain barrel education and give-away. Krista Scheirer's seminar and PowerPoint presentation were very informative well-attended. Members expressed their appreciation of the on-line map of available parking spaces and the on-site displays that John provided.

The Weed Ordinance / Meadow update:

The EAC has to prepare a presentation for the Board of Supervisors. John is awaiting more information from Krista Scheirer about a device for planting meadow grass. The EAC will investigate and secure funding sources prior to applying for a formal authorization from the Board of Supervisors.

The BCA's grant balance:

John will submit a letter to the BCA regarding how to use the small balance of last year's grant that was designated for trail signs.

Parks & Recreation's Master Plan:

Two items to add to the Master Plan are a community garden and bottle refill kiosks. Members expressed concern as to who would maintain the community garden. John will contact Dan Russell and Nick Hiriak to obtain maintenance costs for bottle refill kiosks at the Community Center.

Township Solar Panel Feasibility:

Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager who applied for the Solsmart Community-designated program, is awaiting a response regarding the reward recipients.

Updating EAC "Goals":

John asked for a motion to update the mission statement and goals. Greg Waks offered a minor tweak. Janet Serfass offered to run the resolution past Dave Kraynik.

Confirm the township's "OK" of maintaining the EAC's Facebook page:

John is awaiting a reply from Allison Pimm. Members who want to have a community announcement posted on-line are asked to include EAC members and liaisons in their e-mail to Allison.

Open EAC position:

The open position was filled by Linda Castro.

Student position:

Since filling a high-school student position has been unsuccessful, members recommended recruiting township-resident college and graduate students.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Event in 2017:

John will obtain an update from Chris Kaasmann at the next meeting.

Trash cans at bus stops – no recycling:

Our drafted letter will be modified and sent to Dave Kraynik. Our contact person is Ashley Nuckles, 1012 W. 8th Ave, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

NEW BUSINESS:

Community Fair:

John and Greg cannot attend the fair, scheduled for the week of October 3. It's been held at the township building and at Heuser Park and attended by different organizations. Greg Waks recommended reaching out to Dan Russell regarding the Community Center's second Grand Opening scheduled for October 15. Janet commented favorably on the Center's green roofs, pervious pavements, and water bottle kiosks.

Sal Sonsino:

John circulated a get well card for Sal.

LIAISONS COMMENTS:

Janet invited members to the event to mount a decal around the storm sewer at Norview Farm at 1:30.

Janet asked members to respond to Angela Caramenico regarding attending the Citizen Board's Appreciation Luncheon at Maggiano's at noon on November 6.

Electronic Recycling on November 12:

An Electronic Recycling Event will be held at Heuser Park on November 12 from 9 to 12:00. Please access the township's website for what is/is not eligible.

Comprehensive Plan:

Upper Merion Township is developing a Steering Committee for redoing their Comprehensive Plan. The committee will consist of two members from the Planning Commission; one from the Park and Rec Board, one from the Transportation Authority, one from the Utility Authority, one from the ECDC, one from the EAC, one Police Patrol, and one from the Fire and Rescue Services. Recommended appointees will be voted on by the Board of Supervisors. Selected members are obligated to attend. This is a serious commitment that will require participation for 12 to 18 months. Members were asked to respond quickly. John recommended tabling a discussion on recommending Chris until the next meeting. Janet offered to send an e-mail to everyone.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:

Greg Waks reiterated the Community Center's second grand opening on Oct. 15.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The McKaig Nature Center is having a fund-raising run on October 1. Runners can sign up on their website.

ADJOURNMENT:

In response to John's inquiry members motioned. The meeting adjourned at 7:42p.m.

John Weilnau, Chairman

Minutes Approved: October 18, 2016

Minutes Entered: October 19, 2016