

Upper Merion Township Economic Advisory Council
Regularly Scheduled Meeting for July 16, 2019

The Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its regularly scheduled meeting on July 16th, 2019 in the Upper Merion Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE:

Zach Davis, Chair
Janet Serfass, Staff Liaison
Alexandra Moulton
Kabindra Shakya
Carole Kenney, Supervisor
Brittany Grala
Pepper Francis, Guest

ABSENT:

Courtney Smith, Secretary
David Newman

GUEST INTRODUCTION:

Pepper Francis, 7th grade, attended the meeting as a guest of the council as she is interested in the EAC as well as environmental causes in general. An invitation for Ms. Francis to apply to the open student position was extended by the council barring any age limitation issues.

MEETING MINUTES:

Ms. Grala motioned to approve the June 2019 minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Moulton with all in favor.

OLD BUISNESS:

Ready For 100

The council reviewed the Power Point presentation to be shown to the Board of Supervisors in relation to the environmental resolution put forward by Ready For 100. The presentation included international, national, and local statistics as well as imagery that highlighted the impact of climate change and the necessity to transition to renewable and reusable resources. It was determined that further data directly tied to the township's energy usage and resources should be included in addition to financial projections.

The development of sub-teams made up of volunteers and the organization of student volunteer programs was discussed and generally felt to be a good path forward to include the community in projects as well as get assistance for programs like Ready For 100.

Single-Use Plastics

Mr. Davis met with representatives of Daylin Leach's office to discuss the Single-Use Plastics Ban initiative and received support to move forward with the phased plan. As many businesses are beginning to reduce their single-use plastic usage on their own the need for an ordinance is not entirely immediate but can be voted into action during 2021. Narberth Township has already implemented an ordinance so Upper Merion Township will monitor their process to determine best enforcement practices.

The possibility of promoting businesses online or in the newsletter and providing signage to those who take up the initiative was discussed and felt to be a positive way to get businesses to voluntarily begin reduction of their single-use plastics.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Farmers Market

The schedule for the Farmers Market was confirmed for Saturday, July 20th. Ms. Moulton will work from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM and from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Ms. Kenney and Mr. Shakya will work.

Grinding Acres

Concerns have been raised by citizens, members of the EAC, and Daylin Leach's office regarding the proximity and operations of the mulch processing facility to Gulph Elementary School. While the zoning of the location allows for the type of work to be done, there is reason to believe that they are not limiting their activities to the development of mulch and may be using prohibited materials. An independent air study was conducted by the high school last year but environmental factors led to a follow-up study which will be conducted in better conditions to produce more conclusive results.

Grant Allocation

Ms. Serfass received a quote for 20 rain barrels and 20 compost barrels costing a total of \$2,205.05. Ms. Moulton moved to approve the funds to acquire the barrels and Mr. Shakya seconded with all in favor. It was determined that the leftover funds will be used for PR products relating to the EAC.

Resident Panels

To continue efforts to educate the community on different energy resources, possibility of resident panels was discussed. The intention of these panels would be to gather citizens together and have residents currently using alternative energy explain to the community how the process works, costs, and their personal experiences in changing their energy resources.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Grala motioned to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. Shakya with all in favor at 7:49 PM.

Zach Davis, Chair

Minutes Approved: _____

Minutes Entered: _____