

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Voting members present were: Daryl Carrington, Mary Beth Carroll, Barbara Duffy, Bill Mettler, Miriam Moss, Lorna Rosenberg and David McVeigh-Schultz. Also present was: Tom Bale, Dottie Baumgarten, Bridget Chadwick, Ed Lichstein and Diana Weiner. Staff present was: Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager.

1. Call to Order - Ms. Duffy called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes - A motion was made to accept the June 22, 2009 meeting minutes as written. All were in favor.
3. Committee Reports were as follows:

A. Energy – Update on Act 129 submission by PECO to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) by Suzanne Ryan, Montgomery County External Affairs Director. Ms. Ryan referred to Act 129 which requires a 1% reduction in consumption by May 31, 2011, a total of 3% reduction in consumption and a 4.5% reduction in peak demand by May 31, 2013 in the PECO service area. PECO is required to file their proposed plan by July 1st to the PUC and is subject to public comment. Ms. Ryan anticipates that a decision should be made by the PUC by the end of October, 2009. Ms. Ryan stated that her focus of concentration is in the government sector, specifically municipalities and stated that \$43 million dollars over a four year period would be made available to reimburse municipalities for building upgrades and projects that achieve energy efficiency measures and energy usage reduction targets. Ms. Ryan referred to some programs with prescriptive measures that would include energy efficient light bulbs and traffic lights and other custom measures that might include updating chillers, motors,

water treatment facilities, solar, street lamp lighting. For example, PECO would offer incentives for upgrades for LED, pressure sodium and induction light bulbs. The program is based on implementation, documentation, verification and rebates based on kWh usage. Ms. Ryan noted that PECO is still putting the program guidelines together and will not roll the information out until it is approved by the PUC.

The EAC members were interested in discussing community education with Ms. Ryan. Ms. Carroll asked if the EAC could offer a letter of support for community education. Ms. Ryan noted she needed to get a sense of where PECO is presently with their community education program and perhaps a letter of support would be beneficial from the EAC or the Township Board of Commissioners at a future date. Ms. Ryan did offer a description of a variety of programs that PECO is developing such as energy audits for low income homeowners; insulation and hot water heater wraps; light bulb swaps and rebate programs in partnership with retail stores. PECO is planning a series of mass communication events to be rolled out in the very near future regarding energy efficiency.

PECO is also developing multiple approaches to inform the public about the upcoming rate increases through print, radio, billing, targeted mailings, etc.

Ms. Rosenberg inquired about the green roof at the PECO building located at 23rd and Market streets which is also LEED certified. Ms. Ryan commented on the energy management control system within the building. Ms. Ryan concluded her presentation by stating that tours are available for small groups upon reservation for those interested in viewing PECO's green roof. Ms. Ryan left the meeting following her update.

Discussion then ensued about Positive Energy software. Mr. Bale agreed to prepare a draft letter to PECO on his recommendation to purchase the Positive Energy software. It was agreed that the EAC would review this matter at its August meeting before the letter is sent to PECO.

Ms. Rosenberg mentioned that the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities should be made aware of the Positive Energy software. It was further suggested that the Pennsylvania Environmental Council should be updated on this software as well.

Ms. Rosenberg reported that Myers Elementary School will open this September. Ms. Rosenberg felt the Myers School is unique in that it is an old school building that was retrofitted and expanded with an addition that complements the old historic portion of the school with energy efficient building systems that have achieved LEED certification.

B. Communication Committee - Ms. Carroll stated there were no event e-mails sent out this month. Ms. Duffy inquired about the size of the current e-mail list and Ms. Carroll informed the group that the e-mail list currently comprises over 200 names. She has added approximately fifty contacts since last discussed.

C. Buildings – Mr. Schultz reported that he will be working with the Main Street Manager to develop outreach to the business community on energy efficiency matters. Mr. Schultz also stated he was working with the Jenkintown EAC regarding energy audits with Mr. Wirtshafter.

Ms. Rosenberg anticipates that the Energy Audit video will be completed in the Fall, 2009.

There was an inquiry regarding the possibility of getting the filing deadline pushed back for the Local Climate and Energy Program grant application which is due July 22, 2009 to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Mr. Havir noted the Township could resubmit its greenhouse gas initiative submitted in 2008 to DEP that would help fund building audits in the Township but he would need more time to repackage the project narrative. Ms. Rosenberg will check on an extension of the filing deadline. Discussion ensued about replication, audits, remediation, population size, etc.

D. Transportation – Ms. Duffy reported that she heard from Wendy Green-Harvey who acknowledged she received the EAC’s letter and will respond following her vacation. There has been no report on the next SEPTA Neighbors Workshop which was tentatively slated for sometime after July 4, 2009. Ms. Duffy reported that the Neighbors group expected to be able to review the raw data from the survey prior to the next workshop.

Ms. Chadwick joined the meeting at this time and asked the EAC to consider sponsoring a letter to the SEPTA Board regarding increased bus service at peak hours to the Jenkintown-Wyncote Station for SEPTA’s July 22, 2009 meeting. The EAC reviewed the letter and suggested that because there was insufficient time to get a sign off by the entire EAC; Ms. Chadwick was encouraged to pass along her recommendations to SEPTA as a private citizen.

E. Watershed Committee – Ms. Duffy reported that the EAC Watershed Committee along with the Tookany-Tacony Frankford (TTF) Watershed Partnership stream walks are going well. The next walk is at Rock Creek and is scheduled for July 21, 2009. The meeting place is at Curtis Arboretum lower parking lot between 9:30 and 10:00 a. m.

The committee members are marking longitude and latitude, updating GIS mapping and documenting with photos.

Ms. Duffy reported that she has received some sample ordinances from the Wissahickon EAC to assist with drafting a proposed native species plant ordinance. Ms. Duffy also noted that Ms. Weiner has been hired by Friends of High School Park as a part-time Community Outreach Coordinator and has agreed to serve on the Ordinance Review Sub-committee to draft a native species plant ordinance.

4. Old Business: None was presented.

5. New Business - Ms. Duffy reviewed the June 29, 2009 letter of EAC concerns as it relates to the former Ashbourne Country Club site and Matrix's proposed development and zoning variance application. It was the unanimous consensus to update the letter to include opposition to bulk variance requests. Mr. Havir stated that there were opportunities for residents to comment on the proposed zoning application at various meetings scheduled on August 5, 2009 and September 2, 2009 before the Township's Building and Zoning Committee at 8:00 p.m. at Curtis Hall.

Ms. Duffy also noted that a subcommittee of EAC members also met prior to this evening's meeting to review the plans submitted by the Cheltenham School District for the new Glenside Elementary School. The EAC will be completing its review comments and will be forwarding them to the Township Engineer by the end of the month.

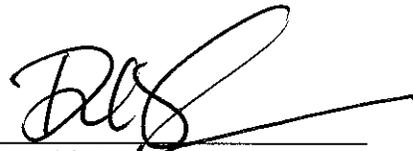
Mr. Havir reported that the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's (PHS) Annual Greening Award Program deadline has been extended to the end of this month. The Parry Bird Sanctuary is eligible and will be submitted to PHS upon the unanimous recommendation of the EAC.

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Additionally, the PECO Green Region Bonus Grant Round for \$5-10-15 Thousand Dollars is available for planning and implementation projects. The EAC made a recommendation to apply for \$15,000 to help fund the Wall Park Riparian Buffer Project Phase II. The deadline is August 26, 2009.

Ms. Duffy reported that she prepared the EAC Annual Report and will e-mail the report to the EAC members next month for review and discussion at the August 17th meeting.

6. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2009 at the Township Administration Building.



David G. Kraynik,
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

