

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Yuri Berg, Brad Pransky, Tom McHugh and Lorna Rosenberg. Ex-officio members present were Earl Stamm and Beth Yount. Township liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. Guests present were Michael Freeman, Jatasha Jean and Julie Slavet, executive director of the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford (TTF) Watershed Partnership, Inc. See attached attendance sheet.

1. Call to Order: Mr. Ahrens called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Mr. Berg made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2015 meeting; seconded by Mr. Ahrens. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Committee Reports:

A. Communications and Engagement Committee: No report. Mr. Ahrens announced the distribution of the EAC e-Newsletter prior to Arts in the Park featuring Sustainable Cheltenham (AIP) and a special one prior to the planned Backyard Buffer Tour. He added that many new email addresses were collected during AIP. He also shared the results of the survey conducted by students at the event (see attached) and comments gathered via a comment board (see attached) at the EAC booth. Ms. Yount suggested a shorter survey next year.

B. Water and Ecology Committee: No report.

C. School Liaison Committee: Ms. Rosenberg submitted her report (see attached). She received confirmation from the EAC that students should continue to be invited to EAC meetings. She commented that the new School District Superintendent previously served at a Green Ribbon School and hopes to find him receptive to green initiatives in Cheltenham.

D. Energy and Emissions Committee: No report. However, Mr. McHugh will follow up with the Premier Energy Company about conducting a virtual auction for supplying the Township's energy needs and prepare a recommendation.

4. Old Business:

A. Sustainable Cheltenham at Arts in the Park: Ms. Rosenberg reported the Friends of High School Park have requested greater sponsorship funding from the EAC to continue providing the EAC with a prime location at the event. Last year, the EAC secured \$1,500, but only \$500 this year. Members plan to start planning for the event earlier next year.

B. Draft Zoning Code: Mr. Pransky indicated a final draft zoning code would be provided to the Commissioners by next week. The Board will review it for 30 to 60 days. Public reviews will be conducted this fall. Mr. Pransky said that although the document may not use the term "sustainability," since the code update began years before the Sustainability Plan was adopted, it still incorporates many sustainability concepts, including riparian corridors, steep slopes, walkability/bikeability, etc. EAC members discussed incorporating the Sustainability Plan as an overarching guideline as well as examining the 350-page draft to consider detailed changes. Mr. Pransky said the document was not perfect but must be brought to completion at some point. Ms. Rosenberg referenced an eight-page filter created by the EPA to identify local codes that may present barriers to sustainability. The EAC will review the public draft zoning code available online during an ad hoc session to identify any specific changes to recommend.

C. Discussion about Educating Other Citizen Advisory Committees: No report.

D. Annual Sustainability Report: Members discussed the pros and cons of a one- or two-year reporting period. Ms. Gibson commented that a 2013 report was posted on the Township website. Ms. Rosenberg will present a draft report at the July meeting.

5. New Business:

A. Ms. Slavet circulated copies of the TTF annual report, invited suggestions for a new date for the Backyard Buffer Tour, and described a successful forum recently held at the Abington Friends School.

B. Mr. Berg described the sustainable features in Iceland, where he recently visited. These include wind generators to operate small devices, organic greenhouse farming offering locally grown fresh food and every waterway clean enough to drink.

C. Mr. McHugh announced a Climate Change Town Hall Meeting with Congressman Brendan Boyle on June 30 in Jenkintown.

D. Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to cancel the August 2015 meeting; seconded by Mr. Berg. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Announcements: In addition to the upcoming conferences of the PA Urban and Community Forestry Council on August 6 and 7, 2015 (see attached), and the Lehigh Valley Watershed on Fresh Water Ecology on October 13, 2015 (see attached), Ms. Gibson shared sections of a letter from the Delaware Riverkeeper Network about a Pennsylvania Supreme Court Case ruling on Act 13 that “made clear that every government official in Pennsylvania, at every level of government, has an obligation to protect our environment.”

7. Adjournment: Mr. Pransky made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Berg. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by: Nancy K. Gibson
Public Information Officer