

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Yuri Berg, Barbara Duffy, Michael Freeman, Thomas McHugh and Lorna Rosenberg. Guest present was Martin Schmid. Township liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. 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. McHugh made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 21, 2016 meeting; seconded by Mr. Freeman. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Committee Reports:

A. Communications and Engagement Committee: Mr. Ahrens distributed the e-Newsletter earlier today.

B. Water and Ecology Committee: Ms. Duffy reported that the Earth Day event at Glenside Elementary School was canceled and an April 22 event at Elkins Park School may also be eliminated, but she is hoping to avoid it. She also has coupons for a free hot dog at the Downtown Glenside Arts Festival to give the leaders of each activity. Ms. Duffy also attended a Bird Town meeting at Lower Gwynedd Township. She noted the resurrection of a \$450 fee to participate, which is waived the first year. The fee is lowered by \$10 for each property certified a bird town habitat and \$25 for posting the Aududon membership on the Township website. Members discussed whether the value of the membership justified the fee and possible fund-raising options. Mr. McHugh thought anything that highlights the unique beauty of the community benefits property values. Ms. Gibson indicated that the EAC-recommended Resolution for the Township to become a Bird Town is on the Board of Commissioners agenda this week.

C. School Liaison Committee: Ms. Rosenberg submitted a report (see attached). She also prepared a flier about School District Earth Day activities for distribution via the District. She commented that the Glenside Elementary Earth Day event was canceled because the union for the custodians filed a grievance about the plan for parents to build a garden in the courtyard. Apparently, such projects are permitted under union rules only if they are part of school curriculum. At the suggestion of the School District's Director of Facilities and Maintenance, Ms. Rosenberg will contact a union representative to request better communication/clarification of union rules. Ms. Rosenberg also provided a brief summary of the District's report on its facilities.

D. Energy and Emissions Committee: Mr. McHugh and Mr. Freeman briefly discussed the LED conversion study currently underway and how PECO tap fees will remain the same but the energy usage fees could be reduced by the LED conversion. The study results are expected by July. Mr. McHugh also commented that sea levels may be rising faster than previously expected due to a feedback loop in the ocean near Antarctica that sends saltier water underneath the ice sheets, speeding up the melting rate, according to climate scientist Dr. Hansen and others.

4. Old Business:

A. Discussion of Electronic Voting/Electronic Meetings: Mr. Berg presented his research into Robert's Rules of Order, which requires a deliberative process that allows "simultaneous aural communication" before a vote. Emails do not satisfy that requirement. Emails can be used for final voting after a deliberative process has occurred, but only if voting by email has been authorized by bylaws and procedures have been established. Mr. Berg noted the EAC is required to follow Robert's Rules of Order and does not have the authority to establish its own bylaws. Mr. Berg made a motion that in future the EAC will not use email or other electronic means to

conduct formal business; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was passed by a vote of 4 to 2.

The motion does not prevent members from informally discussing EAC matters by email. Due to the lateness of the hour, Mr. Berg suspended the second part of his presentation.

B. *Review of Outreach to Other Township Groups:* Mr. Freeman will make a second attempt to recruit members for an ad hoc committee to review the comments received at February's outreach meeting to prioritize those reflected in the Sustainability Plan.

C. *Participation in Downtown Glenside Arts Festival:* Ms. Duffy will confirm that the EAC will have a table at the event. She, Ms. Rosenberg, Mr. Ahrens and Mr. Berg will staff the table but need others to fill two-hour time slots. The EAC table will include information on rain barrels, the upcoming Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) Backyard Buffer Tour and Bird Town. Mr. Ahrens has arranged for a rain barrel to be painted. If it is completed in time, he will get it to the festival so it can be raffled off as a fund-raiser for the high school environmental club, as was done last year.

D. *Sustainable Cheltenham at Arts in the Park:* Sustainable Cheltenham Awards must be decided at the next EAC meeting. Ms. Gibson suggested nominations for the homeowners participating in the backyard buffer tour. Members brainstormed potential sponsors: The Fresh Grocer, Wyncote Commons developer, Cheltenham Mall developer, Towers of Wyncote, Lynnewood Gardens, Wyncote House and some local daycares.

E. *Green Purchasing:* Tabled.

5. New Business:

A. Mr. Schmid reported that Glenside Elementary School custodians dispose of leaves with trash because the District does not want to pay disposal fees at the Waverly Road Compost Facility. [Township Manager Bryan Havir reports that the Township agreed to waive the

landscaping fee for the District weeks ago.] They also claimed a damaged fence around the school's perimeter was Township property. Mr. McHugh stated the fence was obviously the School District's responsibility.

B. Ms. Gibson shared an email from a resident that suggested banning rain barrels due to the potential for a Zika virus outbreak. Members noted that properly screened rain barrels, like the ones sold by TTF, are not breeding sites for mosquitoes.

C. Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to reimburse Mr. Berg \$33.22 for materials used during the outreach about sustainability to other groups in the community on February 22, 2016; seconded by Mr. Ahrens. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Adjournment: Mr. McHugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by: Nancy K. Gibson
Public Information Officer

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-
April 2016

Committee: Schools

Liaison to the Council: Lorna Rosenberg

Date of last meeting: April 4, 2016

Date of next meeting: **May 2, 2016**

Questions for the board/larger group:

- Schools working with the Custodians Union

Action Items Completed: EarthDay Newsletter for Cheltenham Schools (see attached)

- Conversation with Bess Trout of Sen. Steve McCarter's office on green schools.

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- Follow-up meeting with Dr. Marseille
- Status of Educational Commissioning
- Status of Green Policy and Administrative regulations that support the policy
- Green Cleaning program
- Facilities Master plan completed and presented – next steps for EP and CHS

Announcements:

**Groundbreaking for Cedarbrook Construction - April 18.-
Completion expected by 9/2017**