

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Michael Freeman, Elliot Friedman, Thomas McHugh and Lorna Rosenberg. Guests present were Rhonda Isser, Jean Fairbanks, Alan Shaw, Gerry Austin, Brian McCone, Ben Zaitz and Commissioner Brad M. Pransky. Township liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. See attached attendance sheet.

1. Call to Order: Mr. Ahrens initiated self-introductions and called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Mr. McHugh made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 16, 2016 meeting; seconded by Mr. Freeman. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Committee Reports:

A. Communications and Engagement Committee: Mr. Ahrens reported the eNewsletter was distributed two weeks ago and he again got bouncebacks from School District addresses. He added that 20 new recipients signed up at Sustainable Cheltenham at Arts in the Park.

B. Water and Ecology Committee: No report was given. However, Mr. Ahrens mentioned that the Wyncote Audubon Society would like to make a presentation at one of the Commissioners meetings about the Township's designation as a Bird Town. Ms. Gibson will follow up.

C. School Liaison Committee: Ms. Rosenberg submitted a report (see attached). Mr. Ahrens noted that Dr. Marseille has asked her committee to create a list of sustainability priorities and a pathway for achieving them using Sustainable Cheltenham as the framework. Making sure each school recycles is a top priority.

D. Energy and Emissions Committee: Mr. McHugh commented that this past May was the 13th consecutive month that broke the average temperature for that month in 137 years of

recorded data. Mr. Ahrens asked about the results of the Township's LED streetlight and exterior building lighting conversion project study. Ms. Gibson said the project was well underway, but the results are not expected until July. Part of a Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission program, the study will determine if energy and maintenance savings would cover the cost for converting all Township lighting to more efficient and longer lasting LEDs, while still providing appropriate lighting.

4. Old Business:

A. *Review of Sustainable Cheltenham at Arts in the Park:* Although this year's turnout seemed lower, possibly because the rain date was used, Mr. Ahrens thought the event was well received. Several Sustainable Cheltenham Awards were presented, the bike corral was again provided, and EAC proceeds from raffling a decorated rain barrel were presented to the Friends of High School Park.

B. *Discussion of Electronic Voting/Electronic Meetings:* Tabled.

C. *Review of Outreach to Other Township Groups:* Tabled.

5. New Business:

A. *EAC Summer Meeting Schedule:* Members decided to meet in both July and August 2016.

B. *Discussion on Raising Awareness about Sanitary Sewer Inflow and Infiltration (I/I):* Ms. Isser thought the Township should launch an immediate outreach to the community instead of waiting to formulate a firmer plan to address I/I. She also wanted the draft engineer's report and latest draft ordinance posted on the Township website. Commissioner Pransky commented that half information could generate unnecessary confusion. There was disagreement about how many rain gutters were likely connected to the sanitary sewer. Ms. Isser suggested gutter

inspections be required when owners seek building permits. Several people challenged the assertion by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that sewer laterals could contribute up to 70% of I/I. Mr. McHugh summarized many of the Township's past efforts and applauded officials for the sump pump inspection program begun more than a decade ago and more recent work to line and replace sections of sewer mains. Rather than laterals, he thought 8" pipes should be the next priority, especially where they cross underground tributaries. Ms. Isser suggested smoke tests would be better than camera inspections. Commissioner Pransky commented that smoke tests were likely and multiple approaches may be undertaken. He added that DEP is still applying significant pressure on the Township to produce fast results. Multiple suggestions for improving community awareness of the issue included consolidating the Township website, posting Township meeting videos online, including more extensive articles in the Township newsletters, and creating a one-page summary to post at the libraries and community centers. Ms. Rosenberg volunteered the EAC to draft a summary for the Township's review.

On a side note, some questioned if draining municipal pools into the sanitary sewer is appropriate, considering the sewer issue. Mr. Ahrens responded that the pool water would be insignificant to the sewer flow as long as the water is drained slowly during dry weather.

C. Discussion of the Curtis Arboretum Land Management Plan: Mr. Ahrens summarized some of the plan's recommendations, including eliminating the dog park, adding a nature center, allowing more natural growth of native vegetation and establishing a Friends group. Mr. Ahrens proposed inviting Friends groups from other parks to a future EAC meeting to get the effort started.

D. *Comments on PA TIP Church Road /Greenwood Avenue Intersection:* Mr. Ahrens urged everyone to submit comments on the PennDOT plan, which includes new turn lanes at the intersection, to urge PennDOT to incorporate the needs of bikers and pedestrians in the plan. Enlarging the intersection may hurt the aesthetics of the area, but the choice may come down to a big road or a big backup. Mr. McHugh commented that improving traffic flow may attract more traffic.

E. *Discussion of Potential Mandell Campus Development:* Ms. Rosenberg reported that, based on another meeting she attended this evening, the proposal for a senior housing project at the Mandell Campus has been withdrawn. A proposal for an outside agency to use some of the schools is currently on the table. There does not seem to be comprehensive plan for the property, which is currently zoned for single family housing but could be zoned for mixed use, if the Draft Zoning Code is adopted.

6. Adjournment: Mr. Friedman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by: Nancy K. Gibson
Public Information Officer

From: **Lorna Rosenberg**

Date: Fri, Jun 17, 2016 at 2:27 PM

Subject: Brief meeting notes from our June 16 session with Dr. Marseille

This is my report from the last schools committee meeting on June 16. I will not be attending the EAC meeting on June 20, as I will be attending the meeting regarding the development of senior housing on the Mandell Campus being held at the same time.

Hi all, first let me send a big thank you to Christa, Sally and Karen for being there in person. They each gave Dr. Marseille updates from EP, Glenside and CHS regarding projects and challenges for green efforts.

Karen prepared a description of of Extra Duty/Extra Pay for teachers that will pay them to participate in their school as the green or sustainability advocate an point person.

We discussed the recycling and waste reduction challenges and issues of communication brake downs between administration and custodial staff. Dr. Marseille had many ideas about integrating student learning and leadership as connected to the school facilities.

NEWS FLASH!!

Dr. Marseille has given our committee the challenge of creating a list of Sustainability Priorities and a pathway of how our schools can accomplish them beginning in September! He liked the idea of using Sustainable Cheltenham as a framework!<http://cheltenham.municipalcms.com/pview.aspx?id=10383>