

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Yuri Berg, Barbara Duffy, Elliot Friedman, 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 7:33 p.m.
2. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Berg made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 18, 2016 meeting; seconded by Mr. McHugh. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Committee Reports:

A. Communications and Engagement Committee: Mr. Ahrens noted that he has been away and has not distributed an eNewsletter.

B. Water and Ecology Committee: At the August Public Works Committee meeting Mr. McHugh recommended the Township focus on areas where public eight-inch sewer pipes intersect or abut underground tributaries as prime locations for inspection and potential repair of sewer infiltration. He noted that a special meeting specifically to discuss the Township sanitary sewer system has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 28. Ms. Rosenberg was disappointed that the EAC had not been asked to provide input on the sewer issue. Mr. Friedman noted that new technology enables sewer treatment plants to function with almost no carbon or energy footprint and recommended the concept of building at Township treatment plant be revisited if it was explored more than five years ago, although he realized it would not fix any inflow or infiltration. (Township Engineer Amy Montgomery advises that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection [DEP] notified Township officials that DEP would not approve a Cheltenham sewer treatment facility.) Members considered options for increasing public understanding of the issue and decided to use the eNewsletter rather than a meeting. Mr.

Friedman will send Ms. Gibson a draft of the text for the Township's input, and the rest of the EAC will review it at the September EAC meeting.

C. School Liaison Committee: No report was given.

D. Energy and Emissions Committee: Mr. McHugh plans to inspect the sample LED lights installed in Springfield Township as both a driver and pedestrian, possibly after this meeting. He also reported that the workshops of the Draft Zoning Ordinance have not yet covered the issue of bonuses. He will continue attending the workshops to convey the EAC's recommendation that any bonuses offered to developers should be commensurate with the environmental benefit of whatever action the developer takes to secure the bonus. Ms. Rosenberg noted that other communities have ordinances that incentivize developers to make certain improvements and suggested consulting the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

4. Old Business:

A. Discussion of Electronic Voting/Electronic Meetings: Tabled.

B. Bird Town Update: Ms. Gibson announced that Bird Town is on the Township website and will be featured in the fall Update newsletter. Mr. Altadonna recommended nine locations for Bird Town signs and provided seven of them, which are being installed. The remainder will have to wait until the group reorders more signs.

C. Storm Drain Marking: Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) will host training workshops, tentatively scheduled on September 25 at the La Mott Community Center from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on September 27 at the Township Administration Building from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., to train group leaders who then will be responsible for organizing the markings and reporting back when the work is completed. TTF will be on hand to

help some of the larger groups. Volunteers will also hand out literature to residents in the neighborhoods that explains the purpose of the project and benefits of clean water.

5. New Business:

A. 2017 Budget: Ms. Rosenberg recommended acknowledging Sustainable Cheltenham Award winners more permanently by planting trees or other native plants in their honor in Township parks. She also suggested purchasing a teaching tool, such as a light meter, that could be made available for School District classes. Mr. Friedman suggested a “mud watt” and will provide information to the EAC for possible purchase in 2016. Members noted Bird Town membership may entail a fee next year. Consequently, members requested an EAC allocation of \$1,000 in the 2017 budget.

B. Church Road and Greenwood Avenue Intersection Improvement: Members wanted to urge PennDOT to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists in the redesign of the intersection, which currently prohibits pedestrian crossings in all directions. Mr. Friedman made a motion that the EAC submit said comments as a consulting party, seconded by Ms. Duffy. Mr. McHugh will be the contact. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Mr. McHugh announced a Clean Air Council forum on “The Future of Transportation in Philadelphia” scheduled on August 23 in Philadelphia, which he plans to attend. He invited other members to join him.

D. Ms. Rosenberg announced her official resignation from the EAC, although she hopes to continue working with the School District on their sustainability efforts and is available for special projects. Mr. McHugh made a motion to recognize her outstanding service to the community, second by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Adjournment: Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Berg. 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

