
Environmental Advisory Council
Tuesday, August 7, 2012

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business at Northmont Playground.

EAC members present –D. Beane, B. Jennings

Others present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Beane called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public in attendance.

MINUTES

Dr. Jennings moved, seconded by Mr. Beane, to approve the June 26, 2012 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously. Note: Mr. Molteni gave his approval of the minutes via email.

ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Mr. Beane stated that he made the EAC’s annual report to Council on Monday, July 27. He stated that he made a ten minute presentation outlining the work of the EAC over the past twelve months. He stated that the presentation went well and was well received by Council.

Mr. Beane stated that he reviewed the EAC’s work on rain barrels, steep slopes, and other issues. He stated that he informed Council of the EAC’s need for members. Council stated that they would work to find new members.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she has one application pending background review. She stated that this applicant should be in place for the EAC’s September meeting.

Mr. Beane stated that he has received much positive feedback from Council. Council indicated that they were pleased with the rain barrel regulations, the

work the EAC has done to complete the Bernhart project and the work they plan to do on alternative energy issues.

RAIN BARREL REGULATIONS

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the regulations are before Council and are eligible for final passage on August 13. She stated that there are citizens in the community stating that the passage of these regulations would make it mandatory for all properties in the City to use a rain barrel. She stated that she will request Council announce that this is not true during the meeting before a vote is taken. Mr. Beane stated that he is available to attend the Committee of the Whole meeting or regular meeting to answer questions if needed.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY ORDINANCE

Mr. Beane stated that assistance on this ordinance is being sought from a college student. He stated that he will be speaking with Alicia Sprow of Alvernia and Sarah Jacobson of Albright. He suggested that this may be an independent student project similar to Mr. Wood with the Steep Slope Zoning Overlay.

Dr. Jennings stated that many students are looking for independent study projects. He stated that he will recommend this as a project.

Mr. Beane stated that the EAC cannot move this initiative forward until it has more members to create another subcommittee.

Ms. Hoag suggested reaching out to the DaVinci Center near Allentown as they may be able to assist. She also suggested this may be a project for a political science major.

Mr. Beane stated that he has a draft ordinance available for a template but that research is also needed.

MAYOR'S SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Beane stated that the first initiative of this subcommittee was to increase recycling in City schools. Ms. Hoag stated that with the financial issues facing the District, they may be more willing to look at this issue to decrease their spending on solid waste.

Mr. Beane stated that the baler formerly at Conrad Weiser has been relocated to Reading High. He stated that this baler will handle all cardboard at the high

school. He stated that Jane Meeks, County Solid Waste Coordinator, worked diligently to convince the custodial staff to begin this initiative.

Mr. Beane stated that the grant (if awarded) will fund a larger baler which will be located at the 14th & Walnut facility and will handle cardboard from the entire school district.

Mr. Beane stated that the committee is now looking to begin a commercial curbside recycling collection program.

Ms. Hoag questioned the type of commercial entities that would participate. Mr. Beane stated that it would be small offices and groceries to begin the program.

BERNHART PARK UPDATE

Ms. Hoag stated that the City has received a response letter from Exide. She stated that the remaining items address the trail section of the park as other work is complete. Exide has agreed to place a thicker layer of mulch in the area and to install a fence beyond the trail bordering the land which they purchased near Saylor Farm.

Ms. Hoag stated that the City arborist is reviewing the plan to replace the dead plantings and that he will be making a final inspection. Exide will also be placing drainage and loose stones in areas prone to erosion. A sign will be added at the corner of Spring Valley Road and Crystal Rock Road to discourage parking in this area.

Ms. Hoag stated that Exide has agreed to donate the cost of mowing and trimming the park for the rest of 2012 and all of 2013. She stated that this donation would be in lieu of paying for an opening celebration.

Mr. Beane questioned additional work to the bridge. Ms. Hoag stated that Exide would be making no further donation (they did donate \$1000 toward this item). She stated that she would not be moving forward with this item until the dam inspection is complete and DEP recommendations are known. She stated that DEP is now requesting the water level be lowered for a full inspection.

Mr. Beane stated that both the City and Exide are anxious to close this project. He noted his hope that the project be closed by the fall of 2012 and noted the support and assistance of Matt Love through the project.

STORM WATER ISSUES

Ms. Hoag stated that the Memorandum of Understanding with the Berks County Conservation District is being updated to address current storm water issues and is before Council for action on August 13. She stated that she has recently given a major update on all storm water issues to the Managing Director.

RIPARIAN BUFFER ZONING OVERLAY

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she has provided a draft ordinance to Mr. Beane and Ms. Hoag for comment. She stated that she has received comment from Ms. Hoag.

Dr. Jennings requested a copy of the draft. Ms. Katzenmoyer will provide the draft.

Ms. Katzenmoyer suggested that both the Riparian Buffer Overlay and Steep Slope Overlay go through the process together to help with costs and meetings as there are specific advertising and public meeting requirements for zoning amendments. The EAC agreed.

SMART GROWTH ALLIANCE

Mr. Beane stated that the EAC's representative to this committee has resigned. He questioned if the City had another representative. Ms. Katzenmoyer noted her understanding that Crystal Edwards from Community Development was also involved in this committee.

FLUORIDE IN WATER SYSTEM

Mr. Beane stated that Mr. Molteni is not in attendance to give an update. He suggested that a new member be added to this subcommittee to assist Mr. Molteni to move this item forward.

Ms. Hoag suggested that a representative from the Water Authority also serve on this subcommittee and offered to speak with the Executive Director.

Mr. Beane suggested that Dr. Kimball also serve as she has done much research on the issue.

Ms. Hoag stated that items provided to the EAC show that Myerstown was a local area which recently stopped adding fluoride to their water system. She offered to speak with them to determine their research and reasoning.

CONSERVANCY STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE
- LEAD IMPACT STUDY

Mr. Beane stated that he has no new information on this item. He stated that Dr. Kimball has already done much research on this issue and would be a great resource.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Dr. Jennings stated that he would need to check his schedule to determine when he can meet. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that if meetings remain on Tuesday that the meetings would need to conclude by 6:15 due to her daughter's rehearsal schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, September 25 at 5 pm at Pendora Park lower pavilion.

Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Katzenmoyer
Deputy City Clerk