
Environmental Advisory Council
Tuesday, March 25, 2014

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

EAC members present –D. Beane, P. Ignozzi-Shaffer, A. Molteni (via speaker phone)

Others present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Beane called the meeting to order at 12:25 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public in attendance.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer, seconded by Mr. Molteni, to approve the February 25, 2014 meeting summary as written. Motion carried unanimously.

RECYCLING PROGRAM

Mr. Beane reviewed the new curbside collection program, the Great American Clean-Up and the Spring Clean-Up.

Mr. Molteni stated that he has heard that Reading Green Manufacturing and Recycling has closed their business and is moving elsewhere based on a complaint. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that she researched the company to ensure it had proper zoning and a business license.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned if Mr. Molteni is sure they closed because of the complaint. Mr. Molteni expressed the belief that it was the reason they closed. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she did not complain about the business but did follow up on the zoning and business license issues.

Mr. Beane stated that he will follow up with Mr. Reeves.

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer noted the need to discuss inviting members of other County EACs to the May workshop. She noted that the Community Foundation can hold 50 people.

Mr. Beane suggested that the EACs be invited and if there is a large public response to the workshop that the other EACs be requested to send a smaller number of people.

Council staff will take the RSVPs for the workshop.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that there was discussion about holding the July workshop at the Tully house. She stated that the house is very small and if there is bad weather it would be difficult for people to get inside. She also stated that if the program is held outdoors, projection would be difficult.

Mr. Beane suggested holding the July workshop at a different location. He questioned holding it at RACC. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that this location was not chosen because of the fee.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that this is also why Amanda Stoudt was not chosen.

Ms. Hoag suggested holding it at a City park in a pavilion with electric. Ms. Katzenmoyer suggested Egelman's Park. She stated that she will secure the date from the Recreation Commission.

Ms. Hoag suggested inviting Lower Alsace and Mt. Penn EACs to attend the July workshop.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned the press release. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she has not yet sent it out as the workshop is not until May 10. She reviewed the list of organizations that will receive the press release. Mr. Molteni stated that he will contact Land Displays and Lamar Advertising once the press release has been sent.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned the need for Spanish translators since the press release will not be going out in Spanish. Ms. Hoag questioned how many people needed the translators in the past. Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that it was 8 – 10

people. Mr. Beane suggested having translators available in case they are needed.

BERNHART PARK UPDATE

Ms. Hoag stated that the dam assessment should begin shortly. It depends on the continued weather situation. She stated that all City-owned dams will be assessed.

SMART GROWTH ALLIANCE

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that nominations for the Smart Growth award were discussed. She stated that the award dinner will be held at Toscani on either May 28 or June 4 depending on their availability.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that there was also discussion of the increase in flood insurance premiums and FEMA replacement costs.

BERKS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BANQUET AND AWARD

Mr. Beane stated that the Reading EAC is being recognized as the "Group of the Year" at their banquet on April 28 at 6 pm. He stated that they requested photos and a bio of the group. Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that she has photos of the last rain barrel workshop. Ms. Katzenmoyer was requested to work on the bio.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Mr. Beane stated that the committee met last week to begin final review. He stated that Ms. Curran-Myers is amending the draft. He noted his goal that the EAC approve the draft at their April meeting so that it can move forward through the City's process. He noted the need for legal review and a one stop shop.

The Committee will meet on April 4 at 8:30 am in the City Council office. Mr. Beane stated that Ms. Curran-Myers will distribute the latest draft prior to that meeting.

STORM WATER ISSUES

Ms. Hoag reported that there are issues between EPA and DEP regarding TMDLs. She stated that DEP is not indicating when reports are due or permits will be issued. She stated that meetings have been cancelled and not rescheduled.

Ms. Hoag stated that the Wyomissing Creek water shed is working to determine the types of BMPs that need to be addressed to plan how they will deal with improving them and where they are located. She stated that once the data is collected, they will be planning and prioritizing projects. Ms. Hoag stated that DEP planning and enforcement are not working well together on this issue and expressed the belief that they are not set up to handle watersheds as a whole. She stated that part of the Wyomissing Creek water shed is in the south central area and some is in the south east area.

MAYOR'S SUSTAINABILITY AND SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING COMMITTEES

Mr. Beane stated that the Committee will be reaching out to the BCIU to try to kick-start recycling in City schools. He stated that some schools are doing a great job and others are doing nothing. He stated that there are also janitorial issues. The District Property Committee has other priorities at this time but it is hoped that BCIU will bring it back to the table.

Mr. Beane reported that the curbside commercial recycling program is moving forward. He stated that more businesses need to participate to collect the core data needed. He noted the need to start small to expand the program.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned what data was being collected. Mr. Beane stated that it is volume data.

Ms. Hoag suggested approaching the law firms in the downtown area. Mr. Beane stated that these firms have been approached. He noted the Committee's hope that Santander Bank will participate.

Mr. Beane noted the need for the Sustainability Committee to reorganize. He stated that meeting attendance is down. Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer volunteered to attend the Sustainability Committee meetings.

Mr. Beane stated that Brian Kelly met with the Committee and would like to make a presentation about the CDC to the EAC at their April meeting. He stated that Mr. Kelly is interested in how he can work together with the EAC.

Mr. Beane stated that Mr. Seldman was instrumental in this committee and that his contract will not be renewed when it expires.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned the mattress recycling program at Opportunity House. Mr. Beane stated that the program began but ran into storage and other logistical problems. He noted his hope that there will also be a vehicle recycling center.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned if most of the planning by Mr. Seldman was complete. Mr. Beane stated that most of it is complete and that there will need to be members who can execute the plans. He stated that when Mr. Seldman's contract expires, Mr. Lloyd will be looked to for implementation but that he has a limited amount of time to spend on this issue. He expressed the belief that Mr. Seldman would continue to work with Reading pro bono for a short time.

OTHER ITEMS

Mr. Molteni questioned the area of the riverfront that is being redeveloped. He stated that there are lease issues with Reading River Tribe and questioned if this is the area being considered for redevelopment.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she has in her notes to invite Mr. Ruyak to the April meeting to discuss the City's tree canopy. She questioned if she should move forward with this as Mr. Kelly was discussed as a guest for April. Mr. Beane suggested that there be one guest per meeting. He stated that he will contact Mr. Kelly about the April meeting. Mr. Ruyak will be scheduled for the May meeting.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, April 22 at noon at the Public Works building conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Katzenmoyer
Deputy City Clerk