
Environmental Advisory Council
Tuesday, April 28, 2015

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business in the Public Works conference room.

EAC members present –D. Beane, C. Curran-Myers, P. Ignozzi-Shafer, B. Coyle, C. White

Others present – S. Katzenmoyer

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Curran-Myers called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Beane, seconded by Ms. White, to approve the March 24, 2015 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that this will occur at the May 26 meeting.

Ms. Hoag arrived at this time.

ORDINANCES

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the work group continues to refine the ordinances. She stated that the steep slope is complete, the riparian buffer is almost complete and the section on wood fired boilers is all that remains to be addressed in the alternative energy ordinance.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that she has researched wood fired boilers and this section will need a substantial re-write. She noted that the all members had concerns about this section. She stated that the work group discovered a new EPA rule on wood heaters at its last session.

Ms. Curran-Myers explained that this is the first EPA update on wood burning boilers since 1988. All new wood burning appliances will be certified by EPA and are required to meet emission standards. She stated that the certification will be permanently stamped on the appliance and that no non-complying appliances will be sold after December 2015.

Mr. Molteni arrived at this time.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that this will significantly reduce emissions and EPA also encourages all who have older appliances to replace them and also encourages municipalities to make more restrictive regulations.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that EPA defines two types of heaters – room heaters and central heaters. The rule does not cover ovens, fire pits, chimineas, fire places, etc. She stated that the main focus is the large outdoor furnace used to heat an entire home. She stated that the regulations contained in the alternative energy ordinance must be re-crafted to be compliant with the new EPA rule.

Ms. Hoag questioned if existing non-certified appliances could be kept when a property transfers. Ms. Curran-Myers stated that it can be but that EPA is encouraging municipalities to require replacement.

Ms. Hoag stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to encourage use of alternative energy systems. She questioned if the EAC wanted to encourage this type of system. Ms. Curran-Myers agreed and suggested that the entire section be removed.

Mr. Beane stated that there are few areas where these would be applicable in Reading.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that this was discussed in the past. She expressed the belief that these would have a more commercial use. She thanked Ms. Curran-Myers for her research on the issue.

Mr. Beane suggested that the use of these systems not be encouraged. He stated that there are few areas in Reading where they could be used and he suggested that the State and Federal rules govern. He stated that the EAC should not promote using this type of system. He suggested the entire section be removed.

Ms. Hoag questioned allowing them in non-residential areas. Ms. Curran-Myers stated that the new rule only addresses residential systems.

After further discussion, the wood fired boiler section will reference the EPA and DEP rules.

STAR INIATIVES

No report.

ZERO WASTE RESOLUTION

Ms. Katzenmoyer thanked Ms. Curran-Myers for attending last evening's Council meeting. She stated that Council supports the need for a Solid Waste Plan and unanimously passed the resolution last evening.

CLEAN POWER PLAN

The updated draft was reviewed.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that this is very timely and stated that if the Clean Power Plan is adopted by the United States it would reduce greenhouses gases by 17%. She noted the need to reduce pollution from fossil fuels and increase use of alternative energy systems.

Mr. Molteni noted the need to increase use of solar energy.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer thanked Ms. Katzenmoyer for her work on this resolution.

Ms. White moved, seconded by Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer, to submit the resolution to Council with a recommendation to support. Motion carried unanimously.

RAIN BARREL EDUCATION

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she spoke with Dr. Lapinski this morning and he requested that the May 16 workshop be capped at 25. She stated that she has already exceeded that number but will stop taking reservations for May.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer described the issues obtaining barrels. She stated that the grant funding is already spent but the payment of the kit fee will allow the program to break even.

Ms. Hoag noted the need to obtain attendee's addresses to report the workshops

on the City's MS4 permit.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that 30 people attended the April workshop and that it went well.

Mr. Beane stated that he has gotten many compliments about the venue.

Ms. Hoag suggested putting a rain barrel FAQ on the website. *(Note: the inclusion of the diagram in both English and Spanish on the website has been confirmed.)*

STORM WATER ISSUES

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that DEP will be focusing on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and impairments. Ms. Hoag agreed and stated that they are specifically looking at nutrient and sediment issues.

MAYOR'S SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE/SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Beane stated that the Mayor is in campaign mode and there is no meeting scheduled.

BCTV

Mr. Beane reported that the youth round table went very well. He stated that there will be a follow up forum in the fall with high school age youth. He noted the need for a topic for May.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that she has not had a response from 12th & Marion or Amanda Stoudt Elementary Schools about participating and explaining their Trout in the Classroom experiences.

Ms. Curran-Myers suggested that the May program focus on waste reduction.

CITY OWNED DAMS

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that there is a town meeting hosted by Councilor Reed tomorrow evening at 6 pm at Christ Lutheran Church on the removal of the Bushong Dam.

Mr. Molteni stated that he plans to attend and to push the City to keep it.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that Ms. Reed will be highlighting the safety issues at

this dam.

RAIN GARDENS

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that there are many great examples of rain gardens. She stated that she will send a link to the members so they can review examples in the Philadelphia area. She stated that there is a small one at Albright College.

Ms. Hoag stated that the Watershed Coalition is installing one near the Goglersville Fire Company.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that there is one at the Ag Center.

Ms. Curran-Myers noted her hope that the EAC could work to install one in the City. She noted the need for an inventory of current gardens. She suggested that the EAC work with the Conservation District. She stated that funding is available from DCNR and WREN. She suggested that the example include things that homeowners can do and suggested that the EAC begin focusing their educational efforts on rain gardens.

LIGHT POLLUTION

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she requested this topic. She stated that the issue was partially addressed during the Zoning Ordinance update but that there may be more that can be done.

Ms. Curran-Myers agreed with addressing this topic as the City moves to redevelop. She suggested that more lighting may be needed in some areas of the City but not everywhere. She stated that this is timely.

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Curran-Myers suggested that members think about other potential projects to be discussed at the next meeting.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer noted the need for the EAC to have a presence on social media. She also noted the need for minimal funding to allow for advertising of events.

The next regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, May 26 at noon at Hillside Playground.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC
Deputy City Clerk