
Environmental Advisory Council
Tuesday, May 26, 2015

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

EAC members present –D. Beane, C. Curran-Myers, P. Ignozzi-Shafer, A. Molteni

Others present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag, D. Myers

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Curran-Myers called the meeting to order at 12:09 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Beane, seconded by Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer, to approve the April 28, 2015 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that many items on the 2011 Action Plan are complete. She noted the need for the EAC to begin planning future projects.

Ms. Curran Myers introduced David Myers, the current director of the Alvernia O’Pake Institute, and stated that he has agreed to assist with strategic planning. She noted the many other organizations that Mr. Myers assisted with this process.

There was discussion on the City’s update to its comprehensive plan. The EAC will comment on the comprehensive plan overall and in these specific areas:

- transportation
- green spaces
- tree canopy
- riparian buffer

Mr. Molteni expressed the belief that laws and regulations will not help the environment. He stated that people will change their habits only after education.

Mr. Beane expressed the belief that the EAC is not fully utilized by the City and noted that it needs to have more of a voice.

The EAC would like to include these initiatives in their strategic plan:

- increased youth involvement
- be more visible to the community
- be more fully utilized by City leadership
- have a voice at Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board meetings – be part of the formal review process and comment on proposed projects
- reclaim its responsibilities and continue to have a role under the new administration
- review and amend its enabling legislation and by-laws
- prepare promotional materials

There was discussion about whether the EAC is budgeted its annual stipend of \$500 per year and whether the EAC could solicit donations for specific project costs.

Strategic planning will continue at the July 28 meeting.

ORDINANCES

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that her schedule did not allow her to focus on the ordinance revisions. She stated that she will begin her work on the final draft and submit to Ms. Katzenmoyer within the next two weeks.

STAR INIATIVES

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the City has received a three star rating.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that the City will begin performing a gap analysis in the near future. She stated that all participants will be included in this next step.

CLEAN POWER PLAN

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the resolution is complete and she has permission from the Council President to move the resolution forward to Council.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that she is available to present the resolution at Council's June 8 Committee of the Whole meeting.

RAIN BARREL EDUCATION

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that obtaining barrels continues to be a challenge. She stated that approximately 50% of those who register attend the workshop. She noted the excellent work done by RACC and stated that the EAC should give them a big thank you.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that she has begun collecting attendees' addresses for the MS4 educational component. She stated that many participants are not City residents.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that it was requested that a reminder be given to all who register. She stated that she has spoken with Ms. Katzenmoyer about this and Ms. Katzenmoyer has suggested an email as that would be more manageable for staff.

STORM WATER ISSUES

No report.

MAYOR'S SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE/SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING SUBCOMMITTEE

No report.

BCTV

Mr. Beane stated that he and Mr. Twyman just taped the May show. He stated that it focuses on the zero waste effort.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that the July program will feature "Casting for Recovery."

CITY OWNED DAMS

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that she participated in a meeting with the City, the Conservancy, and Trout Unlimited about the removal of the Bushong Mill Dam. She stated that Council has passed a resolution in support of the removal.

Ms. Curran-Myers explained that the City is looking not only at the dam removal but at beautification of the surrounding area and creating a new park. She stated

that the park design is underway.

Mr. Molteni questioned the funding source. Ms. Curran-Myers explained that the City is self insured and that the funding in the self insurance fund for the removal of liabilities will be used to begin the process as the dam is a large liability to the City.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that the City is currently studying whether an RFP is needed for the design. She explained that additional funding will be sought through grants. She stated that the City hopes to connect this new park to Stonecliff and the existing trail system.

Mr. Molteni stated that the area will become a swamp without the dam. Ms. Curran-Myers stated that Trout Unlimited collects data on the river and that Blue Marsh controls the water levels. She expressed the belief that it will not become a swamp.

Mr. Beane questioned retaining the history of the area. Ms. Hoag stated that the City's historic preservation specialist has visited the area. Ms. Curran-Myers stated that some of the stonework from the dam will be saved along with the large mill gears and will be used as sculpture with historical signage.

OTHER

Ms. Hoag informed the members that as of May 4 the long-eared bat has been added to the threatened list.

Ms. Curran-Myers questioned if it is the federal list. Ms. Hoag stated that it is. She explained that many projects must go through the review process again to determine if the long-eared bat will be affected.

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Hoag stated that she would not be in attendance at the June meeting.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she would also not be in attendance at the June meeting. She requested a volunteer to take meeting notes. Mr. Beane stated that he will take the meeting notes for the June meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, June 23 at noon at Pendora Park.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC
Deputy City Clerk