
Environmental Advisory Council
Tuesday, June 25, 2013

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, A. Molteni, P. Ignozzi-Shaffer

Others present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Beane called the meeting to order at 5:07 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 May 21, 2013 meeting summary as written. Motion carried unanimously.

RAIN BARREL EDUCATION

Mr. Beane stated that the first workshop was a phenomenal success. Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that it went very well and that Ms. Keppen reviewed a lot of material. She stated that there were approximately 15 people in attendance.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer noted that there is a small issue with the regulations as they state that the overflow must be the same size as the intake but that most rain barrels are manufactured with a 1" overflow. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she brought this issue up during the drafting of the regulations. Mr. Beane stated that the regulations will be amended in the future to use the 1" overflow.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that approximately half of the attendees were City residents.

Mr. Beane stated that the workshop also included a tour of the Albright garden. He stated that Albright had produce from the garden for sale.

Ms. Hoag stated that this was an excellent location. Mr. Beane suggested that the EAC meet at this location for their September meeting as there are many Adirondack chairs near the garden.

Mr. Molteni stated that there is also produce for sale from the greenhouse in City Park.

Mr. Beane stated that Ms. Keppen is willing to do another workshop and preliminary plans are for one in October at a different location with a different theme.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that she will follow up with Ms. Keppen.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Mr. Beane stated that Ms. Keppen contacted him about the Conservation District educating City residents about storm water management. He stated that he asked Ms. Keppen to coordinate this with Ms. Hoag.

Ms. Hoag stated that there is an educational agreement for storm water management. She stated that County storm water issues are not the same as City storm water issues.

Mr. Beane stated that the EAC's focus is on sustainability at this time. Mr. Molteni agreed and noted his agreement with the Mayor's focus on sustainability.

Ms. Curran-Myers arrived at this time.

FLUORIDE IN DRINKING WATER

Mr. Molteni stated that he has had suggestions to put this issue on Facebook for direct public input.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that this may not keep the topic on point/counter-point hoped for by the EAC. Mr. Molteni stated that none of the professionals he has contacted have gotten back to him.

Ms. Hoag stated that public health issues should be addressed by the City's Board of Health. She again expressed her confusion why the EAC is

investigating this issue if it is not researching how fluoride is effecting the environment. She stated that the City does not hold the permit on this issue, the Water Authority does.

Mr. Beane stated that this issue surfaced before and the EAC must decide during deliberations if this is in their jurisdiction.

Mr. Molteni stated that many additives and medications end up in the surface and ground water. Ms. Hoag stated that this would then be a waste water issue.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that people jump to conclusions without data.

Ms. Hoag suggested an educational session about the proper disposal of medications. Ms. Curran-Myers agreed and stated that great work can be done in this area.

Mr. Molteni stated that Reading is fortunate to have good drinking water. He questioned if the water was tested for fluoride. Ms. Hoag stated that the good quality is because the Water Authority owns the lake and many acres surrounding it.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that many people still believe that the best way to dispose of medications is by flushing them. Ms. Hoag stated that the County Solid Waste Authority is doing a great job with their special collections and have added pharmaceutical collections.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned the ultimate goal with the fluoride issue. Mr. Molteni noted his hope that the fluoride no longer be added to drinking water to allow individuals to decide if they want to add it. He stated that the dose cannot be controlled as fluoride is now added to many items.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned the next steps. Mr. Beane noted his hope to have a presentation on the opposing point of view. He stated that after the presentation the EAC would review the information and deliberate on a recommendation to Council. He noted the need for closure on the public comment period.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned how the EAC makes recommendations to Council. Mr. Beane stated that the EAC may make recommendations to Council

regarding environmental issues. He stated that this issue is multi-faceted but comment would need to have an environmental focus.

Ms. Hoag questioned if all ingested fluoride is absorbed by the body or passes through with waste. Mr. Molteni stated that this is a great question and he will begin investigation.

Mr. Beane stated that the EAC needs experts to assist them in sifting through the data. He stated that data review does not allow for a question and answer period. He stated that he is also interested in the waste issue and a presentation on this issue is possible.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that she will check with colleagues at the DEP to see if water testing includes fluoride.

Mr. Beane noted the need for closure on this issue as it has been discussed many times but is not advancing through the process. He noted the need for the presentation, discussion and the final report.

BERNHART PARK

Mr. Beane stated that Exide has filed for bankruptcy. Ms. Hoag stated that because of the bankruptcy Exide has stopped mowing and maintaining the park.

Mr. Molteni stated that bankruptcy is a regular business decision for many corporations. Mr. Beane agreed.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer questioned how maintenance would move forward. Ms. Hoag stated that she was unsure at this time as the City does not have staff to add this maintenance to their other duties. She suggested that the City revisit a cooperative agreement with Laureldale or Muhlenberg.

Mr. Beane stated that Laureldale has received funds from Exide air quality fines. Ms. Hoag stated that she believes that Laureldale has already earmarked these funds to renovate another park.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that there is a tree down on the trail.

Ms. Hoag stated that there is geo-tech exposed and drainage issues.

Mr. Beane stated that Ms. Kelleher informed him that the signs noting that the park is contaminated and closed remain posted.

Mr. Beane stated that he supports a cooperative program with Muhlenberg. He offered the assistance of the EAC to facilitate. Ms. Hoag stated that she will follow up with the Public Works Director on this issue.

SMART GROWTH ALLIANCE

No report.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY ORDINANCE

No report.

Mr. Beane stated that the ordinance re-codification project is complete. He stated that the new sustainability chapter is now included.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the re-codification will be addressed by Council in August.

BCTV PROGRAM

Ms. Hoag stated that Mr. Denbowski may need to switch with the EAC to have the July program. She stated that there will be a change in the recycling process and he needs to educate residents. She stated that households will now have two containers (one blue and one green) – one for paper and cardboard and one for co-mingled items.

Mr. Beane noted his willingness to switch with Mr. Denbowski.

There was discussion of possible topics for the next meeting. Ms. Hoag suggested discussion on the Wyomissing Creek watershed and the MS 4 process.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

No report.

MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Beane questioned where Ms. White's application was in the process. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that a glitch was found during the background process. She stated that Ms. White has been notified but to date she has not heard back from Ms. White.

EAC IDENTITY

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer suggested the EAC begin a Facebook page to keep information and post events. She questioned if Ms. Katzenmoyer would prefer future event planning by email or through Facebook. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she would prefer using email as Facebook is not one of her regular duties.

Ms. Hoag stated that the City has a policy regarding social media.

There was discussion on updating the EAC page of the City's website to include this information.

Mr. Beane requested a copy of the City's social media policy.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, July 30 at 5 pm at Bernhart Park. Members should meet in the parking lot.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Katzenmoyer
Deputy City Clerk