
Environmental Advisory Council
Tuesday, September 22, 2015

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

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Curran-Myers called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Ms. Curran-Myers distributed short and long term goals.

There was discussion about standing committees versus ad hoc committees.

Mr. Beane stated that Mr. Twyman will be transitioning at the end of the year and would like to meet with the EAC before that. Ms. Katzenmoyer was requested to schedule him at the October meeting.

The public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan will be held on Wednesday, September 28 at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers. Council will receive public comment at that time. Ms. Curran-Myers, Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer, Mr. Beane and Ms. White will review the Comprehensive Plan and prepare comments.

Mr. Myers suggested that the EAC have a consistent process to engage the public and its partners.

Mr. Molteni stated that education must always be a priority.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that she will follow up with Mr. Kelly about installing a rain garden as part of the Masano project.

Ms. White questioned if the City tree inventory was analyzed. Ms. Katzenmoyer expressed the belief that it was as it was used to plan for the Emerald Ash Borer.

Ms. Curran-Myers suggested that Mr. Ruyak provide an update at the November meeting.

Ms. Curran-Myers, Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer, and Ms. Hoag will be the committee for the Bushong Dam project.

Ms. Hoag stated that the RFP information has been sent to purchasing.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that the project is on track. The necessary funds need to be allocated.

Ms. Hoag stated that the City has implemented Complete Streets.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the Skyline Dr and N Front St projects are consistent with Complete Streets. Ms. Hoag stated that it is also consistent with the Penn St Bridge and related projects.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shaffer stated that the Main Street Design Committee should also be aware of Complete Streets so that designs are consistent.

Ms. Curran-Myers requested that the EAC have formal input in projects. Ms. Hoag stated that Complete Streets is included in all projects as they move forward.

Mr. Molteni stated that light pollution was addressed in the past. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that it is part of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance so that not all lighting is reviewed.

Ms. White questioned if lighting is reviewed for redevelopment. Ms. Hoag stated that it is but that it is difficult to catch smaller projects.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that she would update the goals and email them to members.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer, seconded by Ms. White, to approve the August 25, 2015 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE REVIEW

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that comments were received from the Berks County and City Planning Commissions. She stated that two of the three ordinances received mainly editorial comments. She recommended that the Alternative Energy and Riparian Buffer Ordinances move forward.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that the Steep Slope Ordinance is problematic. She expressed the belief that the regulations belong in the land development ordinance and not in zoning. She stated that there are legitimate issues with minor alterations.

Ms. White stated that the Steep Slope regulations would create more issues.

Ms. Curran-Myers agreed and stated that she withdrew the Steep Slope Ordinance from consideration. She noted the need to rewrite the regulations to either not include redevelopment projects or to set limits on the size of the project that would be impacted.

Ms. Hoag stated that the slope map would be similar to how flood plains are addressed. Ms. Curran-Myers stated that the map categories are consistent with the regulations but that it needs more work.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the updated versions were forwarded to members and that the Alternate Energy and Riparian Buffer could be introduced by Council at their September 28 meeting.

Ms. Curran-Myers reviewed the changes.

Motion was made by Mr. Beane, seconded by Ms. White, to move the ordinances onto the Council agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Curran-Myers suggested that she and Mr. Beane work together to correct the Steep Slope Ordinance.

CITY OWNED DAMS

Ms. Hoag stated that the Bushong RFP is being prepared. She stated that the RFP also includes other dam issues.

STORM WATER ISSUES

Ms. Hoag stated that she has begun training managers and supervisors on MS4 issues. She stated that Public Works and the Plumbing Inspector are opening up lines of communication for stormwater issues.

Mr. Molteni questioned if the EAC would be involved with the UGI meter issue. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that this is being handled by Council and City staff.

BCTV

Mr. Beane stated that the September show will be taped tomorrow onsite at Northeast Middle School and will be discussion with students. He noted the need for an alternate taping session for November as it would fall on Thanksgiving.

Mr. Molteni noted the need for citizen volunteers to improve the City.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer suggested having I-Lead students on the November show to discuss their Penn St project. She stated that the students also made a video.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that Albright and Alvernia students do large service projects. Ms. Hoag suggested interviewing freshman for their impressions of the work they performed.

Mr. Beane stated that the topic and the date will need to be finalized at the October meeting.

The EAC noted the need to showcase the work that is being done.

STAR INIATIVES

No report.

This topic will be removed from the agenda.

RAIN BARREL EDUCATION

Ms. Curran-Myers suggested that this change to incorporate rain gardens. She noted the need for outreach on the new ordinances if they are enacted by Council.

SMART GROWTH ALLIANCE

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that the Alliance has been restarted. She stated that the Reading Bike Hub is the winner of this year's award and that an Open House will be held on Monday, October 19 from 5:30 – 8:30 at the Center for Excellence in Local Government.

RAIN GARDENS

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that she will present at power point at the October meeting. She suggested that Ms. Hoag have a list of three possible locations prepared for the October meeting.

Ms. Hoag suggested that the EAC may also consider education for developers on this topic.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, October 27 at noon at the Public Works Building.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC
Deputy City Clerk