

City of Reading Environmental Advisory Council
Tuesday, September 27th, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the City of Reading Environmental Advisory Council (“EAC”) was held for the transaction of general business on Tuesday, September the 27th, 2016, at the lower pavilion of Pendera Park.

EAC members present: C. Curran-Myers, D. Beane, A. Molteni and C. Kern

Others present-D. Hoag, J. Slifko, C. Duran and A. Sellers

Call To Order

Ms. Curran-Myers called the meeting to order at 12.00 noon.

Public Comment

None

Administrative Matters

Minutes from the EAC’s August 16th, 2016 meeting were approved upon motion of Mr. Beane, seconded by Mr. Molteni.

Old Business

- *Recycling/Electronic Recycling:* No report.
- *Steep Slope Ordinance:* Ms. Curran-Myers reported that a new date is needed for a sub-committee meeting in order to finalize the latest revision. For the benefit of the EAC’s newest member, C. Kern, Ms. Curran-Myers outlined the history of the EAC’s work on various ordinances that impact environmental media.
- *Web and Facebook:* Mr. Kern reported that the EAC is somewhat handicapped in promoting its work through a dedicated web presence due to a lack of budgeted funding. The ordinance that created the EAC authorizes \$500 per year for expenditures, but the EAC has been told that the City lacks funds to contribute anything towards the EAC’s work. It was decided to defer any additional discussion on this old business item until the next EAC meeting at the Public Works Building, where a multi-media projector is available to view the City’s web-site for the purpose of recommending how the EAC might use the City’s existing web-site to promote the EAC’s activities. A discussion subsequently ensued about whether Facebook might be a more appropriate forum for getting out the EAC’s message, including the solicitation of public comment in between meetings.
- *Public Participation/Presentations/Agenda Preparation:* Ms. Curran-Myers distributed a draft policy for comment and reviewed with the assembled body each of the numbered paragraphs. It was decided that Agenda Preparation will

not be included in the policy, as the Chair has sole discretion over what to include in the EAC's monthly agendas. Mr. Beane commented that the registration process outlined in the policy is somewhat unclear, specifically when registration must be completed in order to preserve the ability to offer public comment. Ms. Curran-Myers asked that further discussion be deferred until the October meeting to give everyone an opportunity to review the draft policy in greater detail.

- *Trash Collection System Position Statement:* As this item has yet to be presented to Council, it was decided to defer this agenda item until Council is in a position to officially consider any comments the EAC may elect to present.
- *Idling:* Mr. Beane reported that he met with Council's Standards of Living Sub-Committee about the idling problem that has been reported to the EAC by several concerned citizens. The Sub-Committee advised that the City lacks resources to play any meaningful enforcement role with respect to this issue, although the City is prepared to post appropriate no-idling signs. It was suggested by the Sub-Committee that the EAC reach out to management for the Santandar Arena and the Santander Performing Arts Center, in an effort to convince the private sector to assume the primary role of enforcement, including communicating with bus operators about their need to comply with Pennsylvania's Diesel-Powered Motor Vehicle Idling Act.

New Business

- Ms. Curran-Myers reported that she has scheduled a "meet and greet" with Mayor Scott for October the 12th or 13th. Ms. Curran-Myers will use the meeting to update the Mayor on the EAC's past and ongoing work, to ascertain how the EAC might assist the Administration with any environmentally focused initiatives, and to discern the Mayor's level of support for the EAC's work.
- Mr. Molteni suggested that the EAC adopt as part of its mission encouraging the use of public transportation. Mr. Molteni offered to work on a public transportation initiative.
- Ms. Hoag reported on USEPA's discovery of elevated lead levels in soils throughout South Reading. USEPA intends to perform additional testing of soils and air dispersion modeling. It was also reported that Reading has been selected as one of four nationwide "outreach partners" by USEPA in an attempt to gather information about community drinking water standards. A kick-off community "conversation" was held; Ms. Curran-Myers attended on the EAC's behalf. The event was attended by USEPA's Regional Director, USEPA's national representative for its drinking water program, PaDEP's drinking water chief, and a representative from USEPA's Environmental Justice Program. Future "conversations" will be scheduled. It was suggested that the EAC should schedule its own public outreach to educate the community about RAWA's recently completed tap water sampling.

- Ms. Hoag reported that Kate Keppen O'Brien is leaving the Berks County Conservation District to assume the title of Sustainability Director at Ursinus College.

Updates

- *BCTV Program*: Mr. Molteni reported that the EAC's next regularly scheduled BCTV program will be in November. The topic will either be Alternative Energy or Green Infrastructure. More details will follow at the EAC's October meeting.
- *Green Infrastructure Subcommittee*: Ms. Curran-Myers reported that the Subcommittee has yet to meet.
- *Plan Review*: Ms. Hoag reported on plans that have been submitted for review by Carptenter Technology for the old Dana property, by Berks Catholic for its building addition and sports field renovation, and for a Duncan Donuts along Warren Street. Ms. Hoag will have more details at the EAC's October meeting.
- *Smart Growth Alliance*: Ms. Sellers attended the last Smart Growth Alliance meeting. She reported that the meeting consisted largely of discussion, primarily around the Alliance's upcoming trail summit in September of 2017.
- *City-owned Dams*: Ms. Hoag reported that she is still trying to get this issue back on Council's agenda.
- *Stormwater Issues*: Ms. Hoag reported on just completed training she attended on stormwater permitting changes.
- *Statewide Greenway and Trail Summit*: Ms. Sellers reported that the Summit will be held at the Doubletree in September 2017. The focus of the Summit will be the connection between urban areas and natural resources.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.45 pm.

The next meeting of the EAC will be held at the Public Works Center on Tuesday, October 25th, at Noon.

Respectfully submitted by David R. Beane, Acting Secretary