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**Environmental Advisory Council**  
**Tuesday, April 26, 2011**

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

Present – H. Rauenzahn, A. Molteni, R. Nieves, B. Jennings, J. Drayer via phone

Also present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag

Guest – D. Kurzweg

**CALL TO ORDER**

Harriet Rauenzahn called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Mr. Molteni, seconded by Dr. Jennings, to approve the January 25 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Molteni, seconded by Dr. Jennings, to approve the February 15 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

**RIPARIAN BUFFER ORDINANCE**

Mr. Nieves stated that he had questions regarding the Riparian Buffer Ordinance. He questioned if this ordinance would be a zoning overlay area. Ms. Hoag stated that that was a good assumption but that work on the ordinance has not begun. She stated that the City must update its floodplain ordinance due to changing regulations and it would be best to examine the floodplain and riparian buffer issues together.

Mr. Nieves questioned if the City currently had any ordinances which infringe on property owners' rights. Ms. Hoag stated that they did not regarding riparian buffers and that is why it is being examined. She stated that the City is also currently working to update its Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

Ms. Rauenzahn stated that this will be a way to control riverfront development.

Ms. Hoag stated that the goal would be for smart riverfront development.

### **LONG RANGE PLAN REVIEW**

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she included the information so that the EAC could have the most updated version. She noted that she and Ms. Hoag's schedules have not allowed them to work on any issues to date.

### **EAC SUMMIT PLANNING/MEETINGS WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Ms. Rauenzahn stated that she will be attending a Centre Park meeting to determine their environmental issues and concerns.

Mr. Molteni suggested that the EAC should consider having a table at a First Friday event. He stated that the event travels throughout the area and has differing themes. He stated that they are greatly attended and would be an excellent way to interact with the general public.

Ms. Hoag suggested that it was too close to plan for the first Friday of May. Ms. Rauenzahn stated that she will plan to attend in June. She stated that she has met with the South of Penn group and will be inviting Henriette Alban to the next summit to speak about gardening.

Mr. Molteni suggested that the next event be held at Tommy's Cafe.

Ms. Rauenzahn explained the summits to Mr. Nieves. She suggested that a future presentation be focused on energy efficiency and suggested that the event be held at Judy's.

Mr. Molteni noted the need for the location to be contacted prior to the summit date.

Ms. Rauenzahn requested that Ms. Katzenmoyer resend the community group meeting dates.

Mr. Molteni volunteered to work on the First Friday event.

Ms. Rauenzahn stated that she will be attending a College Heights Community Council meeting. Ms. Katzenmoyer noted the need to be placed on the CHCC agenda for the evening as they often have guest presentations.

Ms. Rauenzahn questioned when the next Centre Park meeting would be held. Ms. Drayer did not know the meeting date as she has not recently attended a meeting. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she will find the next date and email the members. Ms. Drayer stated that Centre Park has a gardening club.

Dr. Jennings noted the need to keep summit events at City locations.

Mr. Molteni suggested that Tesla Institute from Philadelphia be invited to a future summit to speak about their work.

### **EARTH DAY**

Mr. Molteni stated that there will not be a large tent this year as the expense was too great. He stated that he has told vendors to bring their own tables and tents. He stated that Mr. Boscov has donated \$1000 toward costs but did not grant use of the tent. The City is the largest donor to the event as they are providing the stage, bleachers, port-o-potties, and the use of a fire truck. He stated that the electricity could not be provided and that generators have been rented.

Ms. Rauenzahn questioned how the EAC could help. Mr. Molteni stated that members should attend and make monetary contributions. He stated that the event will be held on Sunday, May 1 beginning at 10 am.

### **GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN UP**

The Great American Clean Up is being held on Saturday, April 30. The operations are based in Riverfront Park.

Mr. Nieves stated that he will be participating by cleaning the area around Northmont Playground and the Bernhart Creek.

### **BERNHART PARK UPDATE**

Ms. Hoag informed the members that the Access Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding have been signed by both the City and Exide. She stated that Exide has its contractors and consultants on board and that she received the necessary insurance certificate this afternoon. Exide is waiting on their sediment control permit. She stated that Met Ed needs to grant access to the poles so that air monitoring equipment can be installed before work can begin.

Mr. Molteni stated that he has not seen the final agreement. He questioned work in the wooded area. Ms. Hoag stated that there is minimal work being performed in the wooded areas. She stated that downed trees will be removed and will be chipped for placement around the park in areas that are not being remediated.

Mr. Molteni questioned a completion date. Ms. Hoag stated that Exide hoped to have the park reopened by the end of this summer. She stated that it will depend on when the work begins. She will be receiving weekly updates on the project. All public relations will be handled through Exide who will be preparing press releases periodically.

Ms. Rauenzahn questioned if Exide insured against future claims. Ms. Hoag stated that they did not as it was cost prohibitive but that Exide has agreed to additional work. She stated that Exide has also been in contact with DEP regarding the dam safety. She stated that permits are currently being acquired from Muhlenberg Township.

### **RAIN BARREL PRESENTATION**

Mr. Nieves stated that he received a flyer with information about the presentation. He stated that he has been looking to install a rain barrel at his home and that he visited the Performing Arts Gateway School to see their rain barrel operation. He suggested that Reading host an event for educational purposes and the purchase of a rain barrel.

Ms. Rauenzahn questioned the source of the rain barrels. Dr. Jennings stated that the best way would be to re-use barrels used by local businesses and suggested they donate the barrels to the EAC.

Ms. Rauenzahn requested that Mr. Nieves give an update at the next meeting.

### **MEETING DATE/TIME**

Ms. Rauenzahn noted the difficulty Dr. Jennings has meeting on Tuesday evening. She questioned if there was another evening that members were available.

There was a brief discussion of other meeting days and times but it was decided to leave the meeting day and time as is. Dr. Jennings will attend as he is able.

## **BCTV PROGRAM**

Mr. Molteni will be hosting this month's show which will feature presentations on Earth Day. The show will be titled "Journey to Earth Day" and will show past celebrations and describe this year's event.

Mr. Rauenzahn stated that the June meeting will feature Kate O'Brien from the Berks County Conservancy.

## **EPA GRANTS**

Mr. Rauenzahn stated that Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz has suggested focusing on a grant to increase recycling in the City. She stated that the grant deadline is in May.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz arrived at this time.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that education is needed to encourage people to properly dispose their trash and recycle as many items as possible. She stated that a grant can help to support comprehensive education. She noted that people need to know that they are responsible for their trash removal.

Mr. Molteni described a recent visit to Temple University which was littered with trash. He noted that many youth do not feel responsible. He suggested that Reading have its own recycling center.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that Mr. Denbowski has begun an educational program in schools but that more work is needed. Mr. Molteni expressed his belief that the youth must be reached by the seventh grade or that their behaviors won't change.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that the educational focus begin in the early grades. She noted the need to change the culture of the students who will take information home to their parents. She noted that the schools are very busy with test preparation and that this program will not be successful without their buy-in.

Ms. Rauenzahn stated that the grant application process is very complicated.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need for data to build a logic model. She stated that the City has good data showing that it is not performing well in recycling collection.

Ms. Rauenzahn suggested a meeting with Ms. DeGroot. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that her schedule will not allow a meeting until the beginning of May.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz explained the logic model. Ms. Hoag stated that the grant must also contain measurable goals.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that many youth do care about the environment and are making changes at home.

Ms. Hoag noted that the Reading School District has begun recycling.

Mr. Molteni noted that the best education combines books with hands on activities. He noted that lessons must be meaningful to have an impact on the students.

Mr. Kurzwig stated that the City will soon contain a tire recycling facility. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that this facility has not yet gotten City permits.

There was discussion of future grant applications. Mr. Nieves has a contact who is a grant writer. He will discuss this issue with him.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, May 24 at 5:30 pm in the Council Office.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Shelly Katzenmoyer*  
Deputy City Clerk