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**Environmental Advisory Council**  
**Tuesday, July 27, 2010**

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, and B. Jennings - 3

Also present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag, J. Ortiz, B. Christman, and K. O'Brien

**CALL TO ORDER**

Harriet Rauenzahn called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes could not be approved as there was no quorum present.

**EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS**

Ms. Rauenzahn noted that the EAC summit will be held on Wednesday, August 11 at 10 am in Council Chambers. She stated that she would follow up with Dave Renninger.

**BCTV PROGRAM**

Ms. Rauenzahn announced that Scot Case from Terra Choice, a sustainable business consultant, will be the guest for the August 26 program.

**EPA GRANTS AVAILABLE**

No report.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLIMATE ACTION**

Bruce Christman stated that the Berks-Lancaster Green Builders Association continues to monitor the plantings near the Pagoda. He stated that they are currently investigating possible projects for October 2010. He has contacted

Henriette Alban and Bill Vitale. He noted his hope that multiple events could turn this day into a weekend gathering.

Mr. Jennings stated that Albright showed a movie in conjunction with the International Day of Climate Action in 2009. He noted his willingness to work with students for their participation in the events.

Mr. Christman reviewed the possible event schedule.

There was discussion of possible partners including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and environmental clubs.

## **BERKS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Katie O'Brien introduced herself and stated that she is the District's watershed specialist. She also works in environmental education. She explained that the Conservation District has four main focuses – to conserve and protect water and soil, an agriculture program, an erosion and sediment control program, and an ecologist. The ecologist manages the West Nile Virus project.

Ms. O'Brien stated that the EAC could contact her as needed for projects or as an informational resource. She stated that she has many educational resource materials.

Ms. Rauenzahn questioned if Ms. O'Brien could assist with the educational materials when the EAC begins working in schools. Ms. O'Brien stated that she could assist and that she is also certified to train environmental teachers. Mr. Jennings noted his willingness to use this resource.

## **LONG RANGE PLANNING**

Ms. Ortiz reviewed the information discussed at the last meeting.

Mr. Molteni suggested that the City conduct a tree inventory. Ms. Hoag stated her belief that this should be conducted by the Shade Tree Commission. Ms. Katzenmoyer will discuss this issue with the Commission's liaison.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she will approach Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz regarding new plan review.

The EAC discussed the following pertaining to the Berks County Conservancy long-range planning tool provided by Ms. Ortiz:

- 3.1 – Land protection inventory – Ms. Ortiz noted that the EAC should review the 10 Year Park and Open Space Plan for possible gaps.
- 3.3 – Invasive Species – It was noted that the two prime locations for these species would be Neversink Mountain and Angelica Park. Mr. Jennings noted the possibility of State grants for land owners to remove invasive species. Ms. Ortiz noted that this may be a good project to partner with Nolde Forest.
- 3.6 – Developing and planning greenway and green infrastructure – Ms. Katzenmoyer noted the Conservancy’s recent work to link Neversink Mountain trails to Pendora Park, Mineral Spring Park, Egelman’s Park, the Pagoda, and Antietam Lake. Ms. Hoag noted that the Thun Trail passes through the City along the river. Mr. Jennings noted his belief that others in the community are working on this goal.
- 3.7 – Conservation Easements – Ms. Hoag explained that many areas are owned by the City or the Conservancy. She noted that mapping would assist in this area.
- 3.10 – Lighting Ordinances and 3.11 – Dark/Night Sky Protection – Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that these issues were recently addressed in the update of the City’s Zoning Ordinance.
- 3.12 – Standing Dead Trees – Ms. Ortiz stated that many EACs educate residents about the benefit of dead trees as habitat to other creatures. She stated that she has fact sheets the EAC may use for education.
- 3.13 – Sustainability – Conservation Referendum – Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the City does collect a tax to be used for Shade Trees. Ms. Hoag expressed her belief that this revenue is used to fund the salary of the City Arborist.
- 3.14 Clean and Green – Ms. Ortiz noted that this goal is for rural farming communities.
- 4 – Forest Management – Ms. Katzenmoyer and Ms. Hoag explained that most forest areas are owned by the City or the Conservancy. Ms. Katzenmoyer was requested to research timber and forestry ordinances.

Ms. Hoag suggested that a future meeting be held at the Public Works Building to allow her to project GIS maps which could show many of the items being discussed and assist in the planning process.

## **EVERGREEN POWER PLANT**

Ms. Hoag reviewed the data available for this site. Mr. Molteni stated that he has been in contact with the plant managers and will be touring the facility and obtaining additional information.

Mr. Molteni stated that he and Ms. Hoag attended the latest EAC luncheon. He noted that the topic was sustainable growth.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by  
*Shelly Katzenmoyer*  
Deputy City Clerk