

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
(EAC)  
July 21, 2015**

The members of the Environmental Advisory Council assembled for the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at Upper Merion Township, 175 West Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia, PA. The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ATTENDANCE**

Chris Kaasmann, Chairman  
Steven Burda, Vice-Chairman  
Vivian Peikin, Secretary  
Sal Sonsino  
Sandra Moskowitz  
John Weilnau  
Greg Waks, Board Liaison  
Janet Serfass, Staff Liaison

**ABSENT**

Ed Campbell

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL**

On a motion by Sandra Moskowitz, seconded by Steven Burda, with all voting "aye" the meeting minutes of Tuesday, July 21, 2015 was approved. None opposed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***A) Board of Community Assistance (BCA) – Trail Markers Update & Next Steps***

Funding for the Trail Marker has been received.

***B) Waste and Recycling Ordinance***

Vivian Peikin, Secretary has volunteered to take the lead. She will send the information to the EAC for review within the next few weeks.

***C) EAC Facebook Page***

The Chief Information Officer (*Carla Showell-Lee*) was contacted on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 regarding guidance on what the EAC can, and cannot do on Facebook. Carla responded that she would definitely take a look and confirm with, Justin Friend, former PIO Assistant and respond. Justin Friend has since resigned. A follow-up email has been sent to the Chief Information Officer and the EAC is awaiting a response.

#### **D) Community Gardens**

The patrons in Conshohocken have created a community garden. Their community garden is located on East Elm Street and is very successful. A lot of people have plots there. It is approximately two years old and full of plants and people tending to their gardens. It's educational, it brings the community together, and beautifying a vacant lot. Spoke with Conshohocken's EAC to find out more on: 1) how they went about it; 2) what the pitfalls were; and 3) any advice they may have. *(Picture of Conshohocken's community garden was passed out).*

Conshohocken's EAC provided tools so patrons would not have to bring their own, on-site water and composting was provided which may have required a significant investment. The by-laws were reviewed and Conshohocken has a registration fee in the amount of \$45.00 per season which may be necessary in order to maintain them. Some of the plots are 10ft x 5ft, and the newer plots are 10ft x 10ft. The area being used is approximately 1 acre. Conshohocken's rules are: 1) you cannot plant tenacious plants; and 2) you cannot plant tall plants that will block the sun's rays to other plants.

Will be contacting Conshohocken's EAC for a follow-up consultation, and also attending one of their EAC meetings.

May want to survey Upper Merion Township's residents to see what type of interest there may be in creating a Community Garden.

#### **E) Stormwater ad hoc Committee**

*(EAC Representatives: Vivian Peikin and John Weilnau)*

Discussion on forming a Stormwater ad hoc Committee will be presented at the Upper Merion Municipal Utility Authority (UMMUA) meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2015. A decision has to be made on the number of members to be selected. An email has been sent to the interested parties. This will be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A) Board of Supervisors Breakfast Meeting: Chair of all Committees**

- i. The Parks & Recreation Master Plan for the Community Center was presented.
- ii. Assistant Township Manager, Sally Slook discussed a \$500,000.00 grant opportunity from IBM. Sally would like each committee to find a problem within Upper Merion Township that would best utilize this grant *(examples were handed out)*. Deadline for submission is Thursday, October 1, 2015. Consider submitting a grant on Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan.

**STAFF LIAISON’S COMMENTS**

1. EAC may need to designate a backup to help handle the funding of the Schuylkill Valley Trail Marker.
2. Chairman will email the Agenda to be posted.

**BOARD LIAISON’S COMMENTS**

The EAC has received an application for the vacant student position. It is a graduate student who lives in the Township. EAC has approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Parks & Shade Tree Commission is having two fall plantings of 40 bare root trees at Heuser Park. This function will be held in September and November. They are looking for volunteers to help with the plantings.
2. Renmatix on Allendale Road won the EPA’s 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award.
3. Community Day will be held in October 2015. John Weilnau & Steven Burda have volunteered to take the lead. EAC will consider sponsoring: 1) Raffling off rain barrels; 2) Creative things to do with trash (*i.e. taking trash normally discarded and recycling into usable items*); 3) Local daycares request clean recyclables for arts and crafts use.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned.

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Chris Kaasmann, Chairman

Minutes Approved:  
Minutes Entered: