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**Environmental Advisory Council**  
**Tuesday, December 23, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business in the Public Works conference room.

EAC members present –D. Beane, A. Molteni

Others present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag, L. Kissinger, F. Denbowski

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Beane called the meeting to order at 12:13 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**MINUTES**

A quorum is not present. The November 25, 2014 minutes will be circulated and approval obtained via email.

**ZERO WASTE RESOLUTION**

Mr. Denbowski stated that the draft resolution includes guiding principles. He noted his hope that the EAC would edit and comment on the resolution. He suggested that the EAC consider recommending the zero waste initiative to City Council.

Mr. Beane stated that the EAC should have time to work on zero waste after the ordinances have been forwarded to Council. He recommended that the EAC begin working on this issue in early 2015.

Mr. Denbowski stated that zero waste will be included in the City's Comprehensive Plan which must be adopted by Council in June 2015. He noted his hope that Council also adopt zero waste as an overall City policy. He stated that the resolution includes specific action items and guidelines and creates a permanent advisory board that will replace the current Mayor's subcommittee on Solid Waste.

Mr. Beane stated that he is troubled by the overlap caused by this new advisory board and the EAC. He stated that how the two bodies mesh will need to be reviewed. Mr. Denbowski suggested that it could be a subcommittee of the EAC or that EAC members serve in both capacities.

Ms. Hoag expressed the belief that the new advisory board seems better as a task force. She stated that currently Council appoints members of the EAC. She questioned how the current members of the Mayor's subcommittee would be involved.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that if this is a new advisory board, the Charter provision regarding one person serving in only one capacity must also be considered.

Mr. Denbowski stated that this issue needs clarity. He stated that zero waste is a long-term initiative and will need consistency between Administrations.

Mr. Beane suggested a meeting with Mr. Denbowski, Ms. Katzenmoyer and the City Solicitor. He noted the need for the EAC to have a voice at the table.

Mr. Denbowski agreed with the need for a meeting about the advisory board. He stated that creating policy is Council's purview.

Ms. Hoag questioned how members of Planning can serve on the Blighted Property Review Committee in light of the Charter provision. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that some boards interact with others on a regular basis and this is a way for current communication. She stated that the enabling legislation must be specific for this to occur.

Mr. Denbowski suggested that the Zero Waste Advisory Board really operate as a subcommittee of the EAC. He stated that there is much work to be done.

Mr. Beane agreed with zero waste becoming a subcommittee of the EAC. He suggested that a representative of the EAC chair the subcommittee and that non-EAC members could also participate. He suggested that this may be an easier sell to City Council if all work is done through the EAC.

Ms. Hoag stated that there will also be financial impact on the City. She suggested that a member of the finance team should be involved to put policy

into practice. Mr. Beane agreed and stated that there will need to be many team members involved.

Mr. Denbowski stated that he will continue to work with Ms. Katzenmoyer and the City Solicitor.

Mr. Molteni stated that there will also need to be a large educational component to the initiative. Mr. Denbowski noted his understanding and the need for the City to set an example.

Mr. Denbowski stated that he has been certified in zero waste. He stated that the resolution provided was a template and starting point. He noted the need to continue to edit the language.

Mr. Beane suggested that the subcommittee meet independently with an EAC member acting as chair and then report to the full EAC at its regular meeting.

Ms. Hoag noted the need for members of the subcommittee to be flexible as projects change and the process moves forward.

Mr. Beane explained that Ms. Curran-Myers will resume the chair of the EAC beginning in January. He stated that she is very enthusiastic about this project. He stated that he will speak with her about the January agenda. He questioned when this should be before Council as it will be included in the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Katzenmoyer suggested that it be ready for Council in March.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the resolution switches between state, county and city in the language. She stated that this must be closely reviewed so that the correct information is included. She suggested that this be a presentation at a Committee of the Whole meeting. She reminded all that resolutions do not need to have a layover period.

Ms. Hoag suggested that Ms. Meeks also review the resolution. She stated that there may be grant funding possible. Mr. Denbowski agreed.

### **RECYCLING UPDATE**

Mr. Denbowski stated that the latest ruling was in favor of the City. He stated that the plaintiffs have filed an appeal. He stated that it will be approximately 6 – 9 months before the appeal is heard and a ruling 90 days after the hearing is

complete. He stated that no information will change moving forward. He stated that a negative ruling for Reading will affect many Pennsylvania communities. He stated that many believe the issue will end up before the PA Supreme Court.

Mr. Beane stated that there have also been legislative changes which must impact the outcome. Mr. Denbowski agreed and stated that he continues to work with PROP for additional legislative changes that may be needed.

Mr. Beane questioned if it is the City's intent to continue its recycling programs. Mr. Denbowski stated that it is. He stated that additional electronic waste disposals will be held.

Mr. Molteni questioned the City's policy on electronic waste disposal. Mr. Denbowski stated that any electronic waste can be picked up by the City through a call to the Citizen Service Center.

Mr. Denbowski left the meeting at this time.

### **SHADE TREE PRESENTATION**

Mr. Molteni questioned the criteria when deciding which trees come down. He questioned if there were written guidelines. Mr. Kissinger stated that he follows the City's Code of Ordinances Chapter 555 Shade Trees. He stated that they are not taken down "just because" and there must be a reason. He stated that many are removed because they are dead, are dying or are a hazard.

Mr. Molteni questioned the meaning of hazardous. Mr. Kissinger stated that they are generally partially dead and having falling limbs causing property damage.

Mr. Molteni suggested that they be trimmed instead of removed. Mr. Kissinger agreed but stated that many property owners elect to have them removed rather than trimmed because of insurance claims.

Ms. Hoag stated that sometimes trees decay from the inside and it is not visible to the eye.

Mr. Kissinger stated that if a removal application is filed the City grants the removal. He stated that if the removal is denied and property damage is done the City is liable. He stated that property owners are encouraged to plant

another tree. Mr. Molteni noted his understanding of the liability issue.

Mr. Molteni stated that there is more enforcement of shade tree issues in New York. He expressed the belief that trees make for a more civilized city, provide green areas and much needed shade.

Mr. Kissinger stated that the street tree inventory is complete. He stated that the data is currently being uploaded. He stated that approximately ten parks were also completed for a total of 6,800 trees. He stated that the inventory will resume when further funding is available. He explained that there are many reports available but that they are currently only accessible by Mr. Ruyak.

Mr. Beane requested copies of the reports be forwarded to the EAC.

Mr. Molteni noted the need to educate property owners about the need for care of their trees and the benefits of having trees.

Mr. Molteni questioned if the Ash Borer was discovered in Reading. Mr. Kissinger stated that it is in the area but not yet in Reading. He stated that he will be working to preserve the City's 502 ash trees. He stated that the Spotted Lantern Fly has also not yet been seen in Reading.

Mr. Kissinger left the meeting at this time.

### **STEEP SLOPE**

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that Ms. White sent the latest draft via email this morning.

Mr. Beane suggested that the draft be circulated via email. He suggested that members comment and approve moving forward via email to finish this project.

Ms. Hoag suggested that the draft of the Riparian Buffer Ordinance be shared with the Conservancy due to their planned project at Angelica. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she will share the draft with Ms. Murphy.

### **BCTV**

Mr. Beane stated that he did not receive much help from EAC members on the BCTV programming in 2014. He stated that the next scheduled show is January 22. He noted the need for serious discussion moving forward as more member

participation is needed to continue.

Mr. Molteni stated that he will be able to participate more once his health issues improve.

Mr. Beane expressed the belief that Ms. Curran-Myers will not have the time to invest in this project in 2015.

### **RAIN BARREL EDUCATION**

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she and Ms. Keppen met with Ms. Klahr and Ms. Boyer from the Recreation Commission. She stated that after the meeting, it was determined that three different types of sessions are needed:

- Storm drain painting project
- Rain barrel hands on workshop
- Storm water/rain barrel youth education

Ms. Keppen will work with Ms. Klahr and Ms. Boyer to bring the storm water/rain barrel youth education to the two rec centers in early spring. The youth will decorate an already built rain barrel and use it on the premises so that they can see and experience its benefits.

If the program is successful, it will be presented to other parks/playgrounds during the summer sessions at locations where rain barrels will be useful (suggested Pendera, Keffer).

It was suggested that the youth participants be recognized as “Environmental Champions” with certificates.

Ms. Klahr and Ms. Boyer stated that there is no parental participation in programming (although it is encouraged) so an adult hands-on workshop will not be best coordinated through the Rec Commission.

Ms. Hoag noted the need for all future educational programs to be documented for MS4 educational program tracking.

### **STORM WATER ISSUES**

Ms. Hoag noted the need for Council to receive an update on MS4.

Mr. Beane questioned if the update will be an oral presentation. Ms. Hoag stated

that it would be.

Mr. Beane suggested that this occur when the ordinances move forward. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that this is possible if the ordinances are briefly introduced as the details can be provided at the public hearing. She suggested it be done at a Committee of the Whole meeting.

### **2015 MEETING SCHEDULE**

The 2015 meeting schedule is as follows:

- January 27
- February 24
- March 24
- April 28
- May 26 – Hillside Playground – N 14<sup>th</sup> & Green Sts
- June 23 – Pendor Park – S 19<sup>th</sup> & Forest Sts
- July 28 – Schlegel Park – behind fire station on Lancaster Ave
- September 22 – City Park – pavilion near tennis courts
- October 27
- November 24
- December 22

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC*  
Deputy City Clerk