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**Environmental Advisory Council**  
**Tuesday, January 27, 2015**

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, C. Curran-Myers, P. Ignozzi-Shafer, C. White

Others present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag, B. Twyman, B. Kelly

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Beane called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer, seconded by Ms. White, to approve the December 23, 2014 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.**

**REORGANIZATION**

Mr. Beane stated that he would be remaining on the EAC but would be stepping down as chair. He stated that Ms. Curran-Myers agreed to chair and Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer agreed to remain as vice chair.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that she has had increased demands on her time. Ms. White stated that she would assist in the vice chair role as needed.

**Motion was made by Mr. Molteni, seconded by Ms. White, to appoint Ms. Curran-Myers as chair and Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer as vice chair. Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Curran-Myers thanked Mr. Beane for his work and dedication. She noted her hope that the EAC continue to work as a team.

## **ORDINANCES**

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that she and Ms. Katzenmoyer completed the review and reformatted the information into proper form.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the ordinances were given to the City Clerk. She stated that the City and County Planning Commissions have received the ordinances in final form and comments were requested by February 9. She stated that the ordinances will be introduced at Council's February 23 meeting and will require a public hearing. She stated that Ms. Curran-Myers will be reviewing the ordinances with Council at their Committee of the Whole meeting on February 23.

Mr. Beane stated that he was present for the rain barrel regulations when the ordinance was introduced and again when they were being acted upon.

Ms. Hoag stated that she is also hoping to make a presentation to the elected officials on the required storm water educational issues. Ms. Curran-Myers agreed with this need. Mr. Molteni stated that storm water education is sorely needed.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer questioned if all EAC members should attend the Committee of the Whole meeting. Ms. Curran-Myers invited all members who are available to attend. She suggested that Mr. Beane attend as he was chair during most of this process.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that the ordinances are on the City Planning Commission agenda this evening and that she will be attending to give an overview and answer questions.

## **ZERO WASTE RESOLUTION**

Mr. Twyman distributed a copy of the resolution. He stated that the resolution includes a plan outline. He noted his hope for this resolution to be before Council by April.

Mr. Beane noted Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer's concerns about due diligence and the involvement of the City Solicitor at this time.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that she had an initial meeting with the Solicitor to discuss the resolution. The Solicitor noted the need to also review the enabling

legislation of the EAC to see if that would also need to be amended to include Zero Waste.

Mr. Twyman stated that he was just given the resolution and had not spent much time reviewing it. He noted the need for process clarification.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that she supports moving toward zero waste but stated that this is a tight timeline. She questioned if other solid waste entities and professionals were also reviewing the resolution. She stated that the resolution calls for changes to purchasing policies and many other policy issues.

Mr. Twyman stated that the City is committed to moving this initiative forward. He stated that these issues would all be addressed during implementation and the initial resolution would simply ask for an endorsement. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that this resolution goes far beyond endorsing.

Ms. Hoag stated that the draft distributed by Mr. Twyman is not the same as the draft circulated by Ms. Katzenmoyer. She stated that there are many statistics contained in the “whereas” section that must be verified.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that this resolution does not follow the general form of a City of Reading Council resolution. She stated that she will email Mr. Twyman the working draft of the resolution.

Ms. Hoag noted the need to collect data as a starting point. She stated that the benchmarks contained in this resolution may not be achievable in this timeframe.

Mr. Twyman stated that zero waste ties in with the STAR project and the statistics contained in the “whereas” section are based on sustainable standards.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer noted the need for a subcommittee.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that most Council resolutions are simple in form. She stated that a resolution to encourage zero waste would be much more simple than this draft. She suggested a resolution encouraging zero waste followed by a second resolution once the Plan is complete, to adopt the plan. She stated that these “whereas” statistics belong to Boulder, CO and may not be applicable to Reading, PA.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that the benchmark information may be found while

collecting the STAR documentation. She noted the need to set the benchmarks and suggested that Mr. Kelly serve on the subcommittee.

Mr. Twyman requested that Ms. Katzenmoyer draft an endorsement resolution. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she would do so but that it would need to go through the approval process before going before Council.

Ms. Curran-Myers questioned if STAR documentation could establish a baseline. Mr. Kelly stated that it could. He stated that during the documentation process he learned that without a monopoly on solid waste the data is difficult to assess. He stated that he is engaging someone to study the City's solid waste over the next three months.

The subcommittee members will be Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer, Ms. Hoag, Mr. Twyman, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Katzenmoyer and Ms. White.

The first subcommittee meeting will be on Monday, February 9 at 11 am in the City Council office.

### **STAR INITIATIVES**

Mr. Kelly stated that initially the EAC was assigned 14 items. He stated that Ms. Katzenmoyer has supplied much information. He stated that the ordinances will be very helpful but that the City needs to work on the preservation of open space.

Mr. Kelly stated that three potential future projects of the EAC for STAR are:

- Native plant and invasive species
- Green purchasing policies
- Green manufacturing

He explained that STAR employs best practices and a way to identify gaps.

Mr. Molteni expressed the belief that giving resources to the County is not working well. He noted the need for the Zoning Hearing Board to better preserve open spaces.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that pursuing native plants and invasive species would be a good place to start as they are noted in the riparian buffer and steep slope ordinances.

Ms. Hoag suggested working with the Shade Tree Commission. She stated that native species also affect storm water uptake.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she had done some preliminary research to find models of other municipality's native plant and invasive species legislation. She stated that she will follow up with Mr. Ruyak.

Mr. Kelly stated that many STAR initiatives relate to trees. He stated that open sharing of information will reduce the requests for information which are constantly made on City employees. He stated that Socrata will launch in several months to assist with public requests for information.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer questioned where the information would be available and who would maintain it. Mr. Kelley stated that Socrata is used by many cities and states and that the contract has been signed. He stated that IT will upload the data.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that IT is stretched very thin. She noted that there may be staffing issues. Mr. Twyman stated that IT is always very responsive.

Ms. White questioned the type of information that would be available. Mr. Kelly stated that he was unsure as that is being assessed at this time.

Ms. Curran-Myers expressed the belief that the City was at 68% of STAR initiatives. Mr. Kelly agreed and stated that data analysis continues. He stated that there will be a large public forum after the information is submitted. He noted the need to identify low hanging fruit and ways to move initiatives forward. He invited the EAC to attend.

Ms. Curran-Myers questioned what initiatives the EAC should begin to work on. Mr. Kelly stated that the ordinances and zero waste are large initiatives.

Mr. Twyman and Mr. Kelly left the meeting at this time.

## **STORM WATER ISSUES**

Ms. Hoag stated that there are legal issues with US EPA which may impact Reading. She stated that the Storm Water Coalition is analyzing the lawsuit.

Mr. Molteni questioned the substance of the lawsuit. Ms. Hoag stated that the TMDL compliance may not be achievable and practical.

Mr. Molteni questioned if compliance is strict. Ms. White stated that some are very strict.

Mr. Molteni questioned if US EPA looked at water quality. Ms. Hoag stated that that is not always the case.

Ms. Hoag stated that the storm water presentation to Council will include the fact that the City has still not received its MS4 permit and how storm water fits into the EAC ordinances.

Ms. Curran-Myers questioned if Reading fell within the Chesapeake Bay regulations. Ms. Hoag stated that it does not.

### **RAIN BARREL EDUCATION**

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that she could not attend the meeting with the Recreation Commission but that she has spoken with Ms. Keppen.

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. Ignozzi-Shafer questioned if the hands-on workshop should be pursued at this time.

Ms. Hoag stated that she will follow up with Ms. Boyer about the painting project. She noted the need for a consistent look and messages to be in English and Spanish. She stated that the locations must also be documented.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer questioned if she should follow up with RACC for the hands-on workshop. Ms. Hoag suggested that the workshop be held at RACC but be open to County residents. She suggested that Ms. Keppen spearhead this workshop. She stated that the EAC has already held four workshops.

Mr. Beane stated that the EAC has many projects before it. He suggested that rain barrel workshops are done as able but not on a predetermined schedule.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that she will contact RACC and Ms. Keppen to begin planning the hands-on workshop.

Ms. Curran-Myers suggested that this be a pilot event for future planning. She suggested grant funding to offset the cost of the kits.

Mr. Molteni suggested using Goggleworks. Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer and Ms. Curran-Myers stated that there are many events there and that use of the Goggleworks has a fee.

Ms. Katzenmoyer reminded all that the rain barrel information is available on the City's website.

Ms. Curran-Myers suggested members consider what other items to post on the website for public information.

## **MAYOR'S SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE/SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Beane stated that the next meeting is February 18 and will focus on STAR and zero waste.

## **SMART GROWTH**

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer stated that there has been no action.

## **BCTV**

Mr. Beane stated that it has become difficult for him to manage the program. He stated that guests are not available and members are not volunteering to host programs.

Mr. Molteni stated that he is now available. He suggested involving youth in these environmental issues.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer noted the need for controlled conversation.

Mr. Beane suggested that they be open forums with live call in.

Ms. Hoag suggested taping a presentation of the MS4 public education program. She stated that this would be broadcast County wide and can reach more people. She suggested that the forum tie the MS4 to the impact of development within the new regulations.

Mr. Beane stated that he will coordinate this effort and will host the program.

Ms. White suggested that additional planning be done at the next meeting.

Ms. Curran-Myers suggested a future show on the new regulations.

### **CITY OWNED DAMS**

No report.

### **CLEAN POWER PLAN**

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that PA Municipal League is encouraging municipalities to pass this legislation in support of Clean Power. She requested members make comment before the next meeting.

Ms. Ignozzi-Shafer questioned if there was additional background information. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she had no additional information. She stated that she will send the template to members.

Ms. Hoag stated that this resolution makes sense as it addresses items already under consideration by the EAC.

### **EAC CONFERENCE**

Ms. Katzenmoyer reviewed the conference details.

The next regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, February 24 at noon at the Public Works building.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.

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