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**Environmental Advisory Council**  
**Tuesday, January 31, 2012**

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

EAC members present –A. Molteni, D. Beane, B. Jennings

Others present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Beane called the meeting to order at 5:43 pm. He noted that a quorum was not present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Beane introduced Jonathan Wood who is seeking a project to assist with his Master’s Thesis. He stated that he believes Mr. Wood can assist the EAC with the drafting of the Riparian Buffer Ordinance, the Steep Slope Ordinance, and the update to the Floodplain Ordinance.

Mr. Wood stated that he was willing to work on drafting the ordinances. He stated that this would comply with the needs of his Master’s Thesis.

Ms. Hoag explained that the update to the Floodplain Ordinance is driven by FEMA regulations and there are specific timelines.

Mr. Beane stated that there will be many sample ordinances available on the internet. He stated that the EAC can form subcommittees to assist with these drafts.

Mr. Molteni questioned which flood years were included in the update. Ms. Hoag stated that 500 year, 100 year and 50 year data is included. She stated that this process has digitized the flood plain maps.

Mr. Wood stated that his thesis must be submitted in May 2012.

Mr. Beane stated that Mr. Wood should be able to do the work possible within the timelines and that all these issues may not be addressed as part of the project.

Mr. Wood was agreeable and thanked the EAC for the opportunity to work together.

### **RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP**

Mr. Beane reported that a draft ordinance has been prepared and is being reviewed by the subcommittee. He stated that once the subcommittee is pleased with the ordinance, it will be reviewed by the entire EAC for comment. It will then be reviewed by the Codes office and Law Department. It will ultimately be submitted to Council for action.

Mr. Molteni requested that no tickets be issued on rain barrels until after educational opportunities have been given. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that rain barrels will not be an item that can receive a ticket. She stated that if there are problems, notice of violation will be issued.

Ms. Hoag suggested that the education portion of this issue can also be addressed through Mr. Wood's thesis, as another option.

Mr. Beane stated that he has suggested that the rain barrel ordinance begin a new Chapter in the City's Codified Ordinances regarding sustainability. He stated that he has gotten feedback from Linda Kelleher and Ms. Katzenmoyer about this issue.

Ms. Hoag stated that there are many ordinances which address these issues but that they cannot all be relocated to the new Chapter. She suggested creating an index to allow ordinances in other Chapters to be referenced regarding sustainability issues. Dr. Jennings agreed with Ms. Hoag that an index would be easier to create and maintain.

Mr. Beane asked that the EAC consider that Mayor Spencer will be looking at sustainability in the future and that a new Chapter may become necessary. He stated that "green" is often blocked by the City's current regulations. He noted his hope that all regulations be reviewed to remove these blocks. Dr. Jennings agreed with the need for a full review.

Mr. Molteni asked for confirmation that the City is in-sourcing the recycling program. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the City has purchased recycling trucks and is currently recruiting staff.

Mr. Molteni questioned if a collection site would be located in the City. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she did not have this information.

Mr. Beane reported that the Berks County Conservancy reported at its State of the Environment breakfast that Berks County's recycling rate is near 60%, which is higher than the State average.

Mr. Beane stated that he would like to hold rain barrel workshops but that he felt the regulations were needed first. He noted his hope that workshops can be scheduled in the spring of 2012.

Ms. Hoag suggested a BCTV program on rain barrels be held to highlight acceptable examples and to explain the City's regulations. Mr. Beane stated that he will discuss this with Ms. Rauenzahn.

### **BCTV PROGRAM**

Mr. Beane stated that Ms. Rauenzahn will continue her work with the BCTV program through the end of 2012.

### **BERNHART PARK UPDATE**

Ms. Hoag stated that there is no update at this time. She stated that work will continue in the spring. She noted that there is more damage than estimated on the pedestrian bridge. She stated that the entire span may need to be replaced. She stated that Exide donated \$1,000 for this repair but costs may be ten (10) times that amount.

Dr. Jennings questioned the fencing issue. Ms. Hoag stated that this remains an open issue.

Mr. Beane suggested addressing the pedestrian bridge with EPA. He expressed his belief that an additional donation may be received.

### **STORM WATER ISSUES**

Ms. Hoag stated that work has begun on the DEP MS4 program. She stated that DEP is contradicting itself on this project. She stated that work groups have been formed to address issues as deadlines are tight. She stated that the PA Storm Water Coalition will be meeting in February.

## **SMART GROWTH ALLIANCE**

Mr. Beane reported that the EAC has submitted Judy's on Cherry for the environmental award. He explained that Evergreen Community Power was recently cited for Administrative issues and it was decided not to submit their name at this time.

Mr. Molteni suggested contacting Evergreen to arrange another tour.

Ms. Hoag questioned if Evergreen processed pressure treated wood. Mr. Molteni stated that he asked this question during his tour and they could not answer. He stated that he was told that the wood was processed off-site.

## **MUNICIPAL ROUNDTABLE**

Mr. Beane stated that he attended a municipal roundtable on alternate energy sources. He stated that it was well attended and many municipal officials are interested in this issue. He stated that when these issues are addressed by several municipalities simultaneously better results can be achieved.

Mr. Molteni noted the need for adaptability and flexibility. He noted the need for more municipalities to work together on large issues.

## **SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Beane stated that the Committee will begin the review and update of City codes shortly.

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

Mr. Beane stated that a report was made to City Council in January 2011 on the EAC's work in 2010. He questioned if this should be done again. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that it should.

Mr. Molteni suggested waiting until after the Council transition is complete.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Mr. Beane stated that Ms. Rauenzahn will complete her term (August 2012) but will not be reapplying for membership. He noted his hope that Ms. Rauenzahn will continue to work with the EAC on subcommittees as needed. He stated that the EAC is two members short and will be three members short after Ms. Rauenzahn's term expires.

Ms. Katzenmoyer reported that she has spoken with the City's Diversity Officer to recruit members. She stated that one person was interested and is currently in the background review.

Mr. Molteni agreed with the need to have non-EAC members serve on subcommittees.

Mr. Beane requested that names of possible applicants be submitted to Ms. Katzenmoyer for EAC membership and subcommittee work.

### **REORGANIZATION**

Mr. Beane stated that he has agreed to chair the EAC. Dr. Jennings has agreed to remain as Vice Chair.

Mr. Beane expressed his thanks to Ms. Rauenzahn for her tireless work and dedication to the EAC and her passion for the environment.

Dr. Jennings suggested voting on the reorganization and the approval of the December 28, 2011 minutes via email as a quorum was not present. Mr. Beane was agreeable. Ms. Katzenmoyer requested being copied on all email responses so that the vote can be printed and included with the official record.

Mr. Beane reviewed the nine duties of the EAC as a refresher for current members. He stated that these are very broad descriptions and that education is a large component of the EAC's duties. He stated that the EAC can also identify areas which need to be addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, February 28 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Shelly Katzenmoyer*  
Deputy City Clerk