
Environmental Advisory Council
Tuesday, June 23, 2009

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 – 2.

Also present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag

CALL TO ORDER

Harriet Rauenzahn called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by H. Rauenzahn, seconded by A. Molteni, to approve the May 27, 2009 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

LIGHT POLLUTION

Ms. Katzenmoyer debriefed Ms. Rauenzahn on the situation with the electronic billboards and light pollution in general. She stated that she has been unable to get a response from Exeter Township in regards to questions raised at the May meeting. She will continue to contact Exeter Township.

Ms. Hoag noted her observation that some billboards seem to be brighter than others.

BERNHARTS PARK

Ms. Katzenmoyer gave an update on the situation at Bernhart's Park. She described the meeting held with representatives of the PA Department of Health and encouraged members to submit comment on the Department of Health report.

Mr. Molteni expressed concern at cleaning up the park if Exide continues to emit hazardous toxins, including lead and lead compounds. He requested additional data to form a more informed opinion on the clean up needs at the park. He stated his belief that the time which has passed with no action by Exide and EPA is entirely too long.

Ms. Hoag described problems with retention of environmental staff at the local Exide facility.

The Council reviewed the EPA graphic report of emissions from Exide for the years 1988 through 2007. It was noted that the amount of lead emitted has decreased but that lead compounds has increased. Specific statistical data was requested. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the City has submitted a Right to Know Request for this additional information.

The Council reviewed the table comparing lead emissions from Exide, East Penn, and Yuasa. It was noted that this information may be misleading without explanatory information. This information should also be clarified through information requested through the Right to Know Request.

Ms. Rauenzahn questioned if the City had legal assistance with this issue. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the City has hired a legal firm with a focus on environmental issues.

Ms. Rauenzahn questioned what the Council could do now to improve the situation at the park. Ms. Katzenmoyer requested public comment to support the City's position that the park should be reopened with unrestricted access.

There was discussion of a local college working to collect air, soil and water data at the park and the surrounding area to compare the current levels with historical levels to determine continued contamination of the site.

Mr. Molteni again stated that current emissions issues must be addressed before remediation occurs. He stated his belief that remediating without addressing current emissions would put the environment at risk in the near future as toxins continue to fall on the park.

Ms. Hoag informed the Council of Exide's timely filing of Chapter 11 bankruptcy throughout the clean up process to continue causing delays. Mr. Molteni stated his belief that Exide is not a good corporate neighbor.

Ms. Rauenzahn questioned the situation with the draining of the lake to inspect the dam. She stated her opinion that the lake should not be drained. Ms. Hoag explained the situation, stating that DEP has ordered the City to allow for the dam to be inspected. Ms. Hoag stated her belief that the lake did not need to be drained to perform the type of inspection requested by DEP.

Mr. Molteni again requested current and historical data to compare emissions. Ms. Katzenmoyer will work to obtain this information. Ms. Hoag suggested contacting Craig Hafer from the PA Institute of Children's Environmental Health for a copy of the Exide clean up consent decree and copies of their quarterly reports to EPA and DEP.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, July 28 at 6 pm. The location has not been determined.

The meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Katzenmoyer, Deputy City Clerk*