

APPROVED
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
February 1, 2022
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting began at 7:35PM.

Present: Chris Hartigan, Paul Minor, Letty Savage, Stephanie Gundling, Cassandra Miller-Butterworth, Denise Rose, Jim Porcelli

Guests: Jackie DiGiacomo

Absent: Rege Ebner

New business

- No new business

Old business

- Community Garden

- We received four names of individuals interested in learning more about a community garden. Jackie DiGiacomo and Letty Savage agreed to arrange for an exploratory meeting with these and any other potential volunteers in an attempt to better define what individuals expect and what individuals may be willing to provide.

- Issue of garbage along Borough roads

- Stephanie looked into the PennDot Litter Brigade and it appears at this time that the Brigade is not active and that reactivating this Brigade may require a concerted effort. Stephanie also mentioned that there is a website (keepabeautiful.org) that upon registration will provide supplies to groups willing to perform litter clean-up tasks.

- Jim Porcelli spoke with David Minard of the McCandless EAC and learned of the efforts being put forth by McCandless. In particular McCandless attempts to conduct bi-annual litter cleanup days along local roads. Depending upon the turnout there may be anywhere from 30 to 100 volunteers. There are many facets to such an effort including volunteer identification, assignment of tasks, arrangement with the township to pick up the trash bags after the event, and acquiring the necessary equipment to perform such functions. This effort requires logistics to assign individuals to segments of roads and to manage activities.

- We discussed which roads in Franklin Park may be potential sites for beginning efforts. Nicholson Road and Brandt School Road were mentioned because they are higher volume and high visibility, which may encourage more volunteers in the future. We will query residents who have expressed interest in controlling litter in the Borough about the possibility of organizing/leading such efforts.

Publicize borough/EAC achievements

- There was a discussion about the most effective way of publicizing EAC activities and it was agreed that utilizing the Franklin Park Borough social media sites would not only be most effective but also would provide a level of privacy to the EAC members. Jim Porcelli will put together a number of bullet points to present to the EAC members for a determination of which should be publicized.

- Environmental education opportunities

- Letty Savage, as a follow-up to our discussion at our last meeting, provided suggestions on educational opportunities within the Borough, including programs such as exploring the green spaces of Franklin Park and an environmentally-oriented summer camp.

- Currently the Allegheny Land Trust in conjunction with the Little Sewickley Water Creek Association conducts a week long summer camp. We believe that any such program initiated by the EAC should be a family outreach that would attract children and in the process attract adults. While in the past such programs were discontinued for lack of attendance, it was brought up that the behavior of individuals in this post-Covid period may be different such that more people are eager to get out to the open spaces and learn more about nature. Many residents do not know about all of the parks within Franklin Park and opportunities within those parks. As a result one challenge is publicity and another is finding an educator for any programs. Letty will look into this matter further.

- We recently received a letter from a resident expressing excitement about plans for Acorn Park but also expressing disappointment that there were no activities currently scheduled for Acorn Park. Rege explained to the individual that we are currently seeking a grant to improve Acorn Park and that the EAC was in the middle of planning a Volunteer Day prior to the Covid outbreak. When activities begin again, we will contact that individual.

There were no landscape drawings to review. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM

Jim Porcelli – EAC Chair