

APPROVED
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
March 1, 2022
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting began at 7:35PM.

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

Guests: John Parks, Martin Karl, Chuck Stewart (Real Estate Development Manager – Giant Eagle)

Absent: Chris Hartigan

Old business

- Community Garden

- A Zoom meeting held on February 28 revealed great interest in such a project and most participants were interested in growing vegetables on a plot of land that had a sunshine and was somewhat inaccessible to deer. Letty, Denise, and the Borough Intern Jackie DiGiacomo will continue to pursue this project. A major decision in moving forward is determining which plot of land within Franklin Park may be used. This effort will move forward independent of the EAC but the EAC will be kept up-to-date.

- Issue of garbage along Borough roads

- It was decided that the most effective mechanism at this point would be to try a pilot cleanup day. Paul, Stephanie and Jim will get together and identify a stretch(es) of roadway that may be appropriate for cleanup. We agreed upon the day of Saturday April 30 as the cleanup day and this effort will be publicized to get as many volunteers as possible. The EAC will ask Borough Council to authorize providing supplies and safety while Paul, Stephanie and Jim will publicize and organize.

- Publicize borough/EAC achievements

- The cleanup day will be an opportunity to publicize activities/achievement of the Borough/ EAC.
- Rege also indicated that the Borough intends to hire an intern over the summer who will specialize in communication utilizing social media. It is hoped that by the end of the summer such a program may be put in place and will maintained by the Borough.

- Environmental education opportunities

- Letty has done extensive research and contacted Chriss O'Lare, who provided advice on seminars presented by the Allegheny Land Trust. Additionally, Northland Library has a program called Story Walk, which currently is available only at the library. It is believed that this program could be expanded to local parks and there would be great enthusiasm.

- Rege indicated that Franklin Park now has an agreement with the Audubon Society for an analysis of Old Orchard Park to identify invasive species and native species and furthermore to suggest possible educational programs and possible locations for a trail(s).

New business

- NYT Feb 7, 2022 article discussing deer and coronavirus

- The article discussing deer and coronavirus highlighted the disadvantages of feeding deer and propagation of the deer population. There was concern that deer infected with coronavirus may transmit the virus back to human. This may be especially important for those individuals retrieving dead deer from the roadside or for hunters. Nothing further on this issue will be pursued at this time.

- Landscape Drawings for WetGo® Pro Car Wash

- The landscape plans for the Proposed WetGo® Franklin Park Project, Sheet Nos. C-601 and C-602, dated January 25, 2022 were reviewed. Chuck Stewart provided background information and answered questions.

- The EAC has no objections to the landscape plan but suggests selecting indigenous/native plants other than American Arborvitae, which is susceptible to deer, and Scotch pine, which is generally weak and vulnerable to the elements.

- Future meetings – Zoom or in-person?

- The consensus at this time is to continue Zoom meetings until further notice.

Miscellaneous Topics

- IMPORTANT NOTE - The EAC voted to change the day of their monthly meeting from the first Tuesday of each month to the first Monday of each month to better accommodate schedules. As of next month (April) the meetings will be switched to Monday evening at the same 7:30PM time.

- The Borough is seeking a grant for Penn State Extension to conduct 4 workshops directed to stream bank restoration including introducing a riparian buffer and buffer plants along Big Sewickley Creek.

- The Borough a few months ago was pursuing the possibility of mounting solar panels on the roofs of Borough buildings. At the time this activity was believed to be financially feasible. Since then the economy of solar power has changed, at this point in time it is not profitable for the Borough to pursue such an activity and efforts directed toward that activity will be curtailed for now.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

Jim Porcelli – EAC Chair