

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL AGENDA

January 11, 2024

7:00 pm

EAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Zoe Warner, PhD, Chair
Eric Beauregard
Helise Bichefsky-Reilly, DO
Tiffany Brouillet
Cecelia Oswald, EdD
Joanne Zhou

EAC MEMBERS ABSENT

Christine Hafer, alternate

CALL TO ORDER

Zoe Warner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Helise Bichefsky-Reilly, seconded by Cecelia Oswald and carried a vote of 6-0 to approve the minutes from the November 30, 2023 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Elect EAC Officers for 2024

Helise Bichefsky-Reilly nominated Zoe Warner for Chair; Cecelia Oswald seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Joanne Zhou nominated Helise Bichefsky-Reilly for Vice Chair; Tiffany Brouillet seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Helise Bichefsky-Reilly nominated Cecelia Oswald to serve as Secretary; Joanne Zhou seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

2. EAC Open Position

Brendan Phillips was elected President of Borough Council and decided not to renew membership in EAC. This open position will be publicized on Constant Contact and the EAC's social media sites.

3. Youth Advocate

The EAC discussed the possibility and benefit of adding a youth advocate position. Helise Bichefsky-Reilly made a motion to add a non-voting member youth advocate to EAC. Tiffany Brouillet seconded. Motion carried 6-0. The vacant position will be posted on Constant Contact and the EAC's social media sites.

4. CRC Watersheds presentation

Carly Lare, Executive Director of Chester Ridley Crum (CRC) Watershed Association, shared information about the CRC and noted this organization's interest in creating municipal

partnerships to protect watersheds. She discussed programming, including tree plantings, stream cleanups, and education outreach events.

The EAC will partner with the CRC to hold an invasive removal event on February 24, 2024. Carly Lare noted that event has to be at location where a CRC event occurred in the past for CRC to have access to DCNR funding. Eric Beauregard suggested engaging Chester County Little League to assist with the cleanup. Carly Lare noted that her colleague, Lynn Meza, can collect volunteers and assist with recruitment for the event through signups if needed. The event will be publicized, including sign-up information, through Malvern Constant Contact. Zoe expressed appreciation to Carly Lare for attending the EAC meeting and for partnership.

5. Stream Cleanup Event

The CRC will hold its annual Streams Cleanup Event on March 16, 2024. There are two sites in Malvern: Randolph Woods and Quann Park/First Ave. A site Coordinator is needed for Randolph Woods. Helise Bichesky-Reilly agreed to be coordinator, but might not be in-town for event. Cecelia Oswald offered to be backup coordinator. The event will be publicized by both EAC and CRC. Malvern Borough is a CRC Event sponsor and will appear on T-shirt. Donation logistics were discussed.

6. New Planting Locations

CRC 's Carly Lare and Zoe Warner are looking for more planting sites in Malvern. CRC focuses on installing 7-ft trees and shrubs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Bird Town

Eric Beauregard provided a summary of the first Bird Town meeting that occurred on January 10, 2024. The committee appointed Cari Sullivan as Chair. The committee discussed the bluebird house video, the bluebird trail, social media postings, and community engagement. Group will be making seed bombs for the Cabin Fever event. Cari Sullivan will maintain an online log of activities that can be reference for annual report due January 31, 2024.

2. Mayor's Monarch Pledge

The EAC discussed the Borough Hall garden expansion on the sloped area behind the fence at Borough Hall. Zoe Warner noted the plan will use bird friendly shrubs. Bobbi Tower, from the Shade Tree Commission, and Joanne Zhou volunteered to assist with shrub selection.

3. No-Mow May resolution

The resolution was passed by the MBC at the December 19, 2023 meeting. Corinne Badman noted that information will be shared by Constant Contact about how to participate. Cecelia Oswald will prepare a 450-word summary of resolution for the winter 2024 edition of the Borough Broadcaster newsletter.

4. Plastic Bag Ordinance

The EAC requested that the plastic bag ordinance to be on the MBC agenda for February 6, 2024 meeting. Helise Bichesky-Reilly shared concerns expressed by the Malvern Business group regarding costs to businesses for moving away from single-use plastic bags. Helise Bichesky-Reilly inquired about group purchasing to get discounted pricing. Cecelia Oswald noted plastic bags to cover dry cleaning need to be excluded from ordinance. Zoe Warner suggested adding a spotlight on the EAC web page to highlight changes that business make to become more

sustainable. Zoe Warner additionally suggested having business do the write-up to ensure details are accurate.

5. Community Composting Pilot Program review

Tiffany Brouillet shared program summary statistics. The pilot composting program ends in March. So far, 13,349 lbs of trash have been diverted from 50 households. Total program numbers will be publicized after pilot program ends. The group consensus is that EAC is interested in exploring options to continue this program. Tiffany Brouillet will contact Back to Earth to explore costs for continuing. Corrine Badman suggested collecting fees from participants to pass through to Back to Earth. The EAC also discussed a possible rate split or grant potential from Chester County. Helise Bichefsky-Reilly requested inclusion of a short discussion in the upcoming Winter Borough Broadcaster to thank participants and let residents know more information is coming.

6. Temporary meadow sign for Paoli Battlefield

Zoe Warner suggested moving focus to getting a sign about the meadow itself instead of focusing on temporary mowing sign.

7. EAC web page and social media posts

Cheryl Tomlinson will work on generating social media traffic for Bird Town. The EAC needs to look for interesting tidbits to share. Corinne Badman requested EAC members to forward interesting articles or environmental links to her with the addition of one or two sentences of content. Corinne noted she will add #hashtags.

8. Sustainable PA initiative

Nothing to report

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Invasive removal event in Borough parks with partnership with CRC – February 24, 2024. Event will run rain or shine on February 24, 2024.
2. Cabin Fever– Sunday, March 24, 2024 from 1-4pm event. Volunteers should arrive early to set up and stay late to cleanup. Joanne Zhou and Tiffany Brouillet volunteered to represent the EAC at the event. Helise Bichefsky-Reilly will attend the event, but will participate on behalf of Parks & Rec. Event will also feature a seed bomb activity from Bird Town group, a birdseed giveaway, and a paper origami seed packets activity with a seed giveaway and/or an indoor plant exchange.
3. Burke Park Planting – April 2024 to be added to next agenda

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Eric Beauregard, seconded by Helise Bichefsky-Reilly, and carried a vote of 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.