

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
April 21, 2022 7:00 PM

In attendance: Deemer, Gill, Hockenberry, Hulle, Murray, Schawalder

Absent: Finkenbinder

Staff: Adam Ravenstahl

1. Meeting Called to Order at 7:04 PM
2. Approval of Minutes for March, 2022. Passed Unanimously.
3. Landslide Prevention Project -Rainbarrel Workshops/Rebate program
 - a. Educational program on March 23, 2022 was well attended.
 - b. Request to Commissioners for subsidy for resident purchase of rain barrel was approved.
 - c. Discussion about how to implement including online application forms.
 - d. Information Flyer can be included in New Resident welcome packet. Gill volunteered to design/draft something for next meeting.
4. Ordinance Review
 - a. Landscaping in Ordinances Review - Presentation of the motion by EAC recommending an independent holistic review of the landscaping provisions of Ross Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, Zoning Ordinance, and other relevant rules and regulations to improve sustainability, bike-pedestrian safety, and reduce run off and flooding was made by Deemer on April 4, 2022.
 - b. Commissioners requested proposal language. Adam will begin drafting of RFQ for landscape architecture firms to complete the scope as outlined in the motion and reach out to the EAC for additional assistance as needed . Target date for second Commissioner's meeting in May.
5. Sanmartino Park
 - a. EAC members plus members of the community will be participating in a streambank cleanup workday on April 23 from 9- 2 in preparation for a tree planting as part of the park plan.
6. Bus Stop Improvements
 - a. Murray contacted Pittsburghers for Public Transit and is awaiting reply.
 - b. Murray reported on Bike Pittsburgh publication on bike-ped friendly actions a municipality can take, including committee.
 - c. Walk-Bike Ross affiliation with the Township is currently unclear.
7. Community Involvement
 - a. The banner for events to identify Ross Township EAC has been ordered and is being shipped. There may be some changes in Community Day to be more neighborhood focused and opportunities for the EAC to use the banner and participate in events may increase.
 - b. Possible idea for a future seed sale in conjunction with North Area Environmental Council will be investigated by Hulle.
 - c. Gill attended Tri-Boro Ecodistrict Review on March 26, 2022 and brought back information about the Ecodistrict approach to bring social, environmental, economic

improvements to community. Meet many peer communities. Learned tips to get the community more involved.

8. Miscellaneous

- a. Murray suggested an informational sessions be held inviting clean energy providers to conduct a workshop. EAC brainstormed ideas for educational event. Murray will come up with a more detailed proposal.

9. Public Comment

- a. Darlene Didonato asked about responses to questions that come up in EAC meetings. She asked about coal tar recommendations, and made comments about sealing at basketball court at Sanmartino Park and being an example for alternative sealants. Wants to know if they will be in the stream on Saturday and if the permits are copacetic. Ordinance allowing for removal 30 trees concerns her. Curious about overuse of pesticides in township. Asks for these concerns to be addressed and offered a variety of advice for the activities of the EAC.
- b. Kathleen Vello made suggestions regarding examination of Chapter 14 of Zoning Ordinance and citizen participation. Suggested idea for adding mitigation of climate change as a purpose of the ordinance. She is for ordinance enforcement. Suggested Department of Energy and PJM as possible presenter at future potential clean energy workshop.

10. Motion to Adjourn by Gill, Second by Murray, passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan G. Hockenberry