

Abington Township

Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2018

Call to Order: 7:30 pm In attendance: Jennifer Sherwood, Sue Myerov, Cakky Evans-Braun, Michele Kaczalek, Karin McGarry-Rosen, Jim Webb, Neal Gale, Dave Bell and Andrea Soo.

Guests: Jennifer A'Harrah (PSU-Abington student) and Hannah Quinn

Minutes: The March minutes were accepted with minor typos to be corrected.

Chairperson's Report: The report was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: The report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Policy: The report was accepted.

Programs: The report was accepted.

Engagement: The report was accepted.

Guest Presentation: Cakky introduced Jennifer A'Harrah, a PSU-Abington student who has volunteered, as part of her internship, to work to develop an app for phones to link our Go Green Rewards Card (GGRC) program with our volunteers. The concept is that they will be able to obtain GGRC credits for volunteering at EAC events via their phones and likewise allow them to obtain their discounts from participating businesses. Jennifer will attempt to develop the app for Android OS and not Apple IOS. She also volunteered to help update the EAC website. A motion was made to allow Jennifer access to the EAC social media account to make said updates. The motion was passed.

Current Business:

Sustainable Abington/STAR Communities Program: Cakky reported Penn State University – Abington (PSU) intern, Nicole, has switched from investigating the Environmental Justice and Energy issues identified in our initial STAR review

to enhancing our Go Green Rewards Card (GGRC). Nicole and Cakky met with the Roslyn Business Association and the Keswick Village Business Association to add more businesses and ways for the business community to promote Helping Abington Go Green. Nicole will develop a GGRC Brochure to market the program including a list of each participating business reward.

PSU-Abington sponsored a student Social Entrepreneurship competition on April 2 and a Sustainability Fair on April 3. Cakky served as a judge for the competition and Jennifer A'Harrah was a resource for the GGRC program that one of the competing groups discovered..

Cakky continues to pursue achieving LEED certification with the Abington School Board for the planned new Science and Technology Center.

Energy Initiatives: Neal met with George Wrigley to discuss ongoing energy evaluations including replacement of UV lamps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant with a new UV system. Neal did not see any additional opportunities for renewable energy at the plant facility.

Cakky has looked into the costs of using green energy by the Township and has discussed this with the Township Manager. He is interested but needs to meet with each Township Department to fully evaluate its potential usage. A conference call will be set up with the Township Manager, Ed Miccolo and Cakky to ensure that everyone is on the same page.

Transportation Initiatives: Nothing new to report.

PennFuture Initiatives: Dave Bell attended the PennFuture briefing for Madeliene Dean's office regarding their efforts to pursue clean energy and environmental improvements. Dave also attended a briefing by the Coalition for the Delaware River for staff from Representative Evans and Boyle's respective offices in Washington DC regarding water protection issues

Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project: The rain barrel build session is scheduled for April 14 from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. There are 29 drums available to be built. Rain Barrel workshops are scheduled for Briar Bush Nature Center on 4/15 at 2:00 pm and Deal Park on 4/28 at 10:00 am. A barrel will be donated to the Roslyn Valley Business Association and to the Keswick Village Spring Fling to be raffled off to anyone who completes an Abington Township Sustainability Pledge.

Earth Day Cleanups: The following cleanup events are scheduled: 4/21 at the Keswick Avenue Underpass, Penbryn Park on 4/22, a Boy Scout Troop (144) from Warrington Township will do a cleanup in the Sandy Run Creek near Deal Park on 4/28, the Triangle Garden on 4/29, Hallowell Park on 5/19 and Roslyn Park on 6/1 (with ASHS students).

PALTA Conference Planning – April 14, 2018: Sue and Neal will be attending and presenting at the conference.

Open Space Plan Update: In consultation with the Department of Parks and Recreation, the grant application was not submitted for the current round of the DCNR grants.

New Business:

BET Development at the Abington YMCA: The Township Planning Commission as well as the Montgomery County Planning Commission rejected the development as currently planned. It was determined that the EAC should prepare a letter of support to the Township Planning Commission.

ASHS Service Learning Day: The Service Learning Day is scheduled for June 1. Andrea will look into scheduling a clean up day at Hallowell Park on that day.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm

Next Meeting – May 9, 2018