

**Abington Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes for November 14, 2018**

**Call to Order:** 7:31 pm

Attendance:

Members: Jennifer Sherwood, Michele Kaczalek, Karin McGarry-Rosen, John Sorrentino, Cakky Braun-Evans and Jim Webb

Associate Members: Andrea Soo, Dave Bell

Guests: Susie Yi (Temple University)

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the October 10, 2018 meeting were approved.

**Reports**

**Chairperson's Report** - Approved

**Treasurer's Report** – Approved. There is a balance of \$2.85 in our Township budget.

**Committee Reports**

- A. Policy Report – Report submitted at the meeting and will be reviewed by for comment after the meeting.
- B. Program Committee Report – Approved.
- C. Engagement Report – Approved.

**1. Active Business**

- A. Sustainable Abington/STAR Communities program/PSU – Abington Pepsi Mini-grant:** Shelley Griener-Boyd, PSU – Abington coordinator for the Pepsi mini-grant, requested ideas for student projects. The grant has a 3 year term at \$5000 per year with the first year (2017/18) now complete. There is \$500 left from the student intern from the first year. Cakky suggested requesting that these remaining funds be used to provide a stipend to Jenny A'Harrah who voluntarily assisted the EAC with app development for our Go Green Rewards Card. PSU indicated that it no longer wishes to use the grant funding for paying interns and is looking for student projects to fund instead. John will follow up with Gary Calore and Michelle Haskell to discuss this approach to using the grant funds. In the meantime, PSU requested project ideas from the EAC for the remaining grant funds. Among those discussed include: doing a Greenhouse Gas Inventory (Cakky has found an on-line course for conducting such an inventory), developing actions to obtain LEED certification for the campus, developing spotted lanternfly education/awareness, preparing an Environmental Justice index and conducting stream keeper sampling/analysis. The US Green Building

Council (USGBC) sent out an announcement today regarding its LEED City program.

- B. Energy Initiatives:** The Township Finance Committee recommended purchasing 100% green energy purchasing for the Township's energy needs. This was approved at the Board of Commissioners (BOC) Meeting on November 8.
- C. Aqua PA PFAS Contamination:** Cakky and Karin attended a recent Aqua meeting regarding their proposed rate hikes. A similar meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening (11/15) in Upper Dublin. Issues remain regarding Aqua's communication regarding the PFAS contamination. They are waiting for state or federal regulatory changes before pursuing greater contaminant reductions. The current codified limit is much higher than the Center for Disease Control is recommending (50 vs 11 parts per billion). Cakky has filed a grievance with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) regarding the rate request. The BOC has filed resolutions requesting appropriate regulation of PFAS and against a rate hike for Aqua.
- D. Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project:** A Rain Barrel build session took place on October 14. Karin, Jenn and Andrea attended. Fifteen new barrels were constructed.
- E. BET Abington Terrace development at YMCA:** BET is continuing the zoning change process. The Montco Planning Commission has commented that the request for greater density is too large. BET wants density bonuses for several initiatives including underground parking. One suggestion for BET to obtain density bonuses is to utilize 100% renewable energy. BET has also indicated it will obtain additional parcels to purchase for a 5 acre open area. There are multiple signs throughout the Township opposing this development.
- F. Spotted Lanternfly:** Ashley Nuckles has added a link to the Township's website regarding identifying and addressing lanternfly infestation. Briar Bush Nature Center is planning a forum in February 2019.
- G. AT Electronics Recycling:** Dave and Andrea plan to attend. Cakky will try to be there as well. They will hand out Go Green Rewards Cards, our latest newsletter and collect canned goods for a local food bank. Karin will prepare a newsletter for upcoming events.

## 2. New Business

- A. USGBC LEED Cities Program:** A final release for this updated program is expected in January 2019. Our current membership is good through September 2019. There are 6 areas for focus for this program. They are: sustainable sites; energy; water efficiency; materials; indoor air quality and innovation. Our membership provides training for 30 hours of continuing education credits. The liaison with USGBC must be a Township employee.
- B. EAC 2019 Budget:** The proposed EAC budget for 2019, located within the Parks and

Recreation Department, is \$2050. Cakky will prepare a letter of thanks to the Board of Commissioners upon budget approval/announcement.

- C. Bylaws Review:** The bylaws were last revised and approved on March 14, 2018. The revision should be placed in Google documents for public availability.
- D. Member Renewals:** Michele, Cakky and Jenn are up for renewal. Michele and Cakky agreed to continue and Jenn needs to determine if she plans to continue.
- E. Nominations for Officers:** Jenn wishes to step down from the Chair position. A discussion took place regarding the possibility of having Co-chairs. Jenn indicated that Sue Myerov might be willing to serve as a Co-chair as did Jim Webb. The by-laws would have to be revised for such an arrangement. Michele agreed to continue as Treasurer and Andrea volunteered to serve as Secretary.
- F. Go Green Rewards Card (GGRC) Program:** Cakky obtained GGRC stickers to be distributed to participating businesses. She would like to provide them with an updated flyer along with the stickers. Cakky said that many of the businesses liked the idea of a GGRC app. The issue of maintaining such an app was discussed but not resolved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 pm

Next Meeting – December 12, 2018