

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for May 8, 2019**

Call to Order: 7:32 pm

Attendees:

Members: Cakky Evans (CE), Michele Kaczalek (MK), Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), Andrea Soo (AS), John Sorrentino (JSO), Jim Webb (JW)

Associate Members: David Bell (DB), Neil Gale (NG), Jennifer Sherwood (JS)

Others Present: Lindsay Blanton (WVWA Water Programs Manager), Eloise Hargaden (child resident, presenter), Edel Mowlin & Nicholas Hargaden (parents of Eloise), Ashley McIlvaine (AM, Communications Manager/Abington Township), Jessica Tholey (Parks & Rec), Stewart Winegrad (Commissioner Ward 7), Erica Winegrad (daughter of S. Winegrad)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the April 10, 2019 meeting were approved.
2. **Eloise Hargaden's Plastic Reduction Proposal:** Copper Beach first-grader, Eloise Hargaden, presented a proposal to EAC to help spread the word about the importance of reducing and recycling plastic bottles by hanging hand-drawn signs around township public spaces.
3. **Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (WVWA) Update:** Lindsay Blanton (LB) announced WVWA is currently auditing residential homes in the WV watershed, providing suggestions and funding support to manage stormwater issues. This includes a two-year grant to provide 100 rain barrels to WV watershed residents using EAC's Rain Barrel program. KMR will coordinate with LB on partnership.
4. **Reports:**
 - A. Chairperson's Report – Approved with minor revisions.
 - B. Treasurer's Report – Approved.
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. Policy – Approved.
 - B. Programs – Approved.
 - C. Engagement – Approved.
6. **Active Business**
 - A. **Sustainable Abington/[USGBC LEED for Cities Program](#):**

Plans are underway for the Township Comprehensive Plan to be updated to replace the 2007 Comprehensive Plan. A. McIlvaine said the township is currently working on how to appropriate funds for this effort.
 - B. **Energy Initiatives:**
 - CDP 2019 Cities Disclosure Questionnaire – CE provided an overview of how the 2017 Montco Hazard Mitigation Plan, adopted by AT BOC in Nov 2018, will provide a basis for identifying climate hazards on the CDP disclosure questionnaire. Deadline to submit the questionnaire is July 10, 2019.
 - Township Operations Sustainability Integration Plan – EAC and STC met with AT Dept Heads on 5/1 to initiate planning.
 - Resolution for 100% Renewable Energy – NG and CE met with AT officials on 5/6 to review and modify resolution.
 - C. **Aqua PA and PFAS Contamination:** Commissioners Spiegelman/Thompson and State Rep Sanchez attended 5/6/19 PFAS Task Force Roundtable with Congresswoman Dean, DEP, and EPA. AM said no action items resulted from the roundtable; just collected comments/questions.
 - D. **Rain Barrel program:** 5/18 is the RB Workshop at Collins Nursery. We are at maximum capacity with our e-mail distribution list, so we may need to work AM on how the Township can support with sending e-newsletters, etc.

- E. **Montgomery Award vote:** EAC voted on the three nominees and the Montgomery County Housing Authority and Penn Rose Properties LLC was selected to receive the 2019 Montgomery Award which will be presented by the BOC in July.

7. **New Business**

- A. **Global Covenant of Mayors discussion:** EAC will need to decide whether or not to commit to the Global Covenant of Mayors which is a formal pledge that cities or towns make to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- B. **CHOP Center proposal:** A new proposal for a pediatric outpatient specialty care medical facility is being developed for the former BET redevelopment site. SM attended the public meeting on 4/24 and will provide future updates, but no proposal has been submitted yet. The historic YMCA will remain on site.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm

Next Meeting – June 12, 2019

Acronym Key:

AT – Abington Township

BOC – Board of Commissioners

CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

PFAS - per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (which includes PFOA)

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council

WVWA – Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association