

Pennsauken Environmental Commission

February 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Commissioners: Elyn McMullin – Secretary, Ana Fernandez – Vice Chair, Jack Sworaski, Sue Kofet, Darlene Hannah-Collins, Chad Halliday.

Township Liaison: Betsy McBride

Guest: Olivia Glenn

Meeting started 7:07 p.m.

Due to Library closure for January 26th meeting, this meeting is the 1st meeting of the Environmental Commission in 2015 and as such is designated as the “Reorganization Meeting”. Two members have resigned: Renee Cirello, Chair and Sulena Robinson-Rivera. Meeting was facilitated by Ana Fernandez – Vice Chair.

Speaker – Mike Hogan, South Jersey Land and Water Conservation Trust on Invasive Species. Website: <http://www.sjlandwater.org/>. Mike spoke mainly about invasive plants. Greatest threats to Pennsauken - Knotweed and Japanese Angelica Tree. For more info on NJ Invasive Species Strike Team: <http://www.njisst.org/>

Meeting Minutes

November 2014 minutes were reviewed. Spelling error of Chad’s last name note; Gateway Park property sentence changed to read “...owned by DRPA and is to be transferred to CCMUA. Motion to accept as amended made by Anna; seconded by Sue. All approved.

Financial Report

As former Chair Renee Cirello was also acting Treasurer, information was provided by various sources. Elyn retrieved the Beneficial banking information from Renee and reported that the checking account balance was \$420.00. Betsy noted that the \$500.00 grant from Sustainable New Jersey was still being held by the Township. The Township would like to close out the grant this year. Spending recommendation was to allocate \$260.00 for PEC membership to ANJEC and balance to be used for table skirt/banner/runner. Betsy will apply for membership to ANJEC and arrange for payment; Sue will follow up on skirt/banner/runner recommendations and present at next meeting. Once approved, she will make request to Township for payment. The motion to accept treasurer’s report and recommendation for expenditure made by Darleen; seconded by Elyn. All approved.

Reports of Standing/Special Committees

RX disposal – State is sending information

School Initiatives – Ana will follow up with Sulena for school contacts

Rich Wesley Recognition (local) – Status unknown

Fundraising – Ana has an idea that would involve Children’s Garden. Will provide more detail at future meeting

ANJEC - Elyn will be attending March 7th workshop in Haddon Township: *Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions* and will report back at next meeting.

Bike Share – has been taken over completely by Duke Martz, Pennsauken Parks and Recreation Director. Duke has been in email contact with Jack. Kick-off expected on or about March 15th. Recommended mural painting on container. Ana may know of volunteer. Olivia offered possible artist too.

Pennsauken Trail Project – Jack reported that feasibility study is done. There may be money available for trail design from the DVRPC.

2015 Green Fair – Status unknown. Township sent out letters to 30 vendors from 2014; only 5 had positive reply. Many non-profits are interested in participating. Green Team has not met in a while. PEC may need to pick up lead.

New Business

Election – Nominations: Jack Sworaski (Co-Chair), Darlene Hannah Collins (Treasurer), Ellyn McMullin (Secretary). Motion made by Darlene to accept slate as presented, seconded by Ana. All approved.

Ana to be considered Chair (Pro Temp) until official appointment by the Mayor (should be on the March 4th agenda); Olivia has been recommended for appointment as Commissioner to fill unexpired term.

Good of the Order

Township has been sued for altercation at the Boat Ramp during PEC cleanup in October.

Adjournment

Motion made by Ana; Seconded by Jack. All approved. Meeting Adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 16 , 2015

Respectively submitted,
Ellyn McMullin, Secretary