

Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2013

7:30 PM

Conference Room D

Mt Lebanon Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board

Attendees:

Andrew Baram
Patrick Eberz
Matt Hoover
Kathleen Hrabovsky
Maria Joseph
Steve Noorbakhsh
Pam Scott
Scott Goldman, Mt. Lebanon School Board
Kristen Linfante, Commission Liaison
Tom Kelley, Staff Liaison & Public Works Director

Others in Attendance:

Abby Moryz-Lawmor

Call to order: The official meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Acting Chairperson Hrabovsky.

Approval of March 14, 2013 meeting minutes:

The following changes were made: Composting in Schools – line 7 – change Dr. Veron to Dr. Marrone, Superintendent of Quaker Valley School District. Also Tazzan Chowurdy is the Director of Food Services. The corrected meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment: Nina Balsamo, a Mt. Lebanon resident, attended the Environmental Sustainability Meeting and has expressed an interest in joining the Environmental Team.

School Board Business

Introduction of New Member: Scott Goldman introduced new member, Maria Joseph, a municipal resident for the past fourteen years and mother of two. She is graduating from a master's program at Chatham University and works as a librarian for the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Composting in Schools: Andrew reported that he will be meeting with the school district's facilities director and director of food services and that they will be traveling to the Quaker Valley Elementary School to observe the composting program. The site visit is scheduled for

Friday, April 12th. Scott will be providing Andrew with information on an environmental charter school.

High School Construction Update: Scott will give an update at the next meeting on the air quality situation in the high school. He did report that the project is complying with all health department testing standards.

Municipal Business

Introduction of New Members: Commission Linfante introduced Patrick Eberz, a former member of the Parks Advisory Board and a recent undergraduate from the University of Pittsburgh, who will be attending the Graduate School of Public International Affairs. Patrick has a strong interest in environmental policy.

Ex-officio Member: Kristen will be discussing the addition of an ex-officio member to the ESB to be appointed by the Environmental Team. This action will require a minor change to the membership language in the section of the Municipal Code pertaining to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board. This will allow the Environmental Team to appoint a member to the ESB.. Also Scott will check with the school board and get back to Kathy and perhaps the newly appointed member can be at the next regular meeting of the ESB.

Pay-As-You-Throw: Kristen met with Lou Gorski of SHACOG to discuss adding a Pay-As-You-Throw option to the upcoming solid waste and recycling request for pricing. Kristen also met with Keith McGill, Municipal Planner, and members of the Environmental Team to discuss the Pay-As-You-Throw option. The group discussed the possibility of having a Pay-As-You-Throw presentation at the commission discussion session in mid-May. Approximately 45 minutes will be required to make the presentation. ESB members will send emails to the commission to encourage a broad meeting to discuss Pay-As-You-Throw. The goal being to educate the commission on Pay-As-You-Throw and to have time allocated for a broad discussion in mid-May. If the mid-May date is not available then the discussion will be scheduled for May 28th. The ESB will draft a letter to the commission supporting Pay-As-You-Throw. Members of the ESB will prepare a statement for the full board to review and submit to the commission. Kristen also informed the ESB that the solar shot ordinance laying out the guidelines for active and passive solar arrays is being considered by the commission.

Climate Action Plan Project Update: Barton Kirk is finishing up the Climate Action Plan Update and copies will be sent to all ESB members before the May meeting. Barton will be requested to attend the next meeting and make a brief presentation.

Stormwater Fee Program Update: Nothing new to report at this time.

ESB Business

ESB Business/Earth Day: Earth Day will be held on Saturday, April 27th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Main Park. Abby is distributing Earth Day posters and there was a nice write up in the Post-Gazette pertaining to Earth Day. The ESB will have its own table at the event. Andrew will be discussing recycling and Zero Waste Pittsburgh will have a presence at the event.

ESB Award: Rob Papke was selected to be the ESB Person of the Year and will be presented with a plaque at the Earth Day Event.

G-Tech: G-Tech has submitted a memorandum of understanding to the municipality which was reviewed by the solicitor. The revised MOU was sent back to G-Tech and the municipality is waiting to hear back from G-Tech on the modifications. Kathy indicated that she will be collecting data from home owners to report on greenhouse gases. She and Abby will be doing outreach at senior luncheons and will reach out to the schools in the fall.

Sustainable Pittsburgh Luncheons: April's luncheon will be at St. Vincent's College then the next luncheon will be held in June.

Lebo Green Website: There is nothing new to report at this time.

Grant Opportunities: Nothing new to report at this time.

Art Exhibition Rain Garden: Plans for a metal structure to be constructed at the rain garden demonstration area will be submitted to Joe Berkley for his review. The installation is scheduled for the fall of 2013.

New Business

Carson Creehan will be graduating and the board will need to find a replacement. The consensus was that this process should begin as soon as possible. The desire is to have school students more involved with the ESB. Scott indicated that the ESB should put together requirement and let the school decide on the best fit for the position. It was suggested that the ESB should invite the Environmental Club to attend an ESB meeting. This item will be discussed at the next meeting. An election of a new ESB Chairperson will be held at the May meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.