

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2014
7:30 PM
Conference Room C

Mt Lebanon Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board

Roll Call:

Attendees:

Kathleen Hrabovsky, Chair
Andrew Baram, Co-chair
Patrick Eberz
Pam Scott
Abby Lawler Morycz,
Maria Joseph
Kelly Fraasch, Commission Liaison
Bonnie Cross, Staff Liaison & Assistant to the Manager

Absent:

Elaine Cappucci, School District Liaison

**High School
Students:**

No high school student liaisons were present at this meeting.

**Others in
Attendance:**

Kimberly Schevtchuk, resident

Call to order: The official meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Chairperson Kathleen Hrabovsky

Public Comment: Kimberly Schevtchuk, resident, spoke regarding the turf project.

Approval of the April, 2014 Meeting Minutes: Andrew motioned to approve the April minutes; Abby seconded the motion. All members in attendance approved.

School Board Business

Composting Pilot: The school board liaison was not present, however, Andrew stated that he had reached out regarding composting to Carl Salemi, the Facilities Director for the school district. Mr. Salemi advised that he had been put in touch with PA Resources Council (PRC) who could develop a composting plan for \$6k. ZeroWaste Pittsburgh would like to compete with AgRecycle, the main commercial composting firm in Western PA, but would need a large client due to costs. Andrew will continue to reach out. Kathy stated that composting was cost-neutral.

High School Liaisons: Kathy has been in touch with Mr. Bergstressor regarding having new high school liaisons start to attend the ESB meetings over the summer. She encouraged anyone that knows of a high school student, whether he or she is in the Environmental Club or not, to encourage the student to be one of the liaisons.

Board Member select by the School District: Kathy has been in touch with the school district to appoint a member to succeed Matt Hoover. She has had no response. Kelly stated that she would contact them.

Commission Business

Pay-As-You-Throw: As one of the ESB members assigned to the PAYT committee, Andrew advised that the April 21st forum was attended by about 20 people. Steve Lisauskas and the President from Waste-Zero were in attendance. Waste-Zero had a presentation and entertained questions.

Kelly advised the ESB members that because PAYT was important to the Commission, the ESB had full access to the municipality's communications resources. Kathy asked if information could be put on the homepage. Kelly suggested that if there were a promotional piece such as a postcard, it could be put in the municipal building and the library. Other suggestions were to put information in the Mt. Lebanon magazine and the Facebook page, Once it is developed, Kelly will help with the communications.

Most of the final analysis is done and now a document needs to be produced. Kathy mentioned that getting residents back what they pay in their tax bill would be approximately \$167 plus a few additional dollars.

Patrick asked and Andrew responded that the cost to implement was minimal for education. The presentation to the Commission is scheduled for July 28th. Andrew would not be able to attend that meeting and Kelly felt the meeting needed to be changed in order for him to attend, since he had done so much work on it. Kelly said that she would start garnering resident support also.

Artificial Turf Update: Maria reported on the educational forum held on April 30, 2014 in conjunction with the Sierra Club. There were two presenters: Tracy Banks, PhD, Environmental GeoScience and, Phillip Johnson who has a PhD in Risk Management and a Master's degree in Environmental Science. There were approximately 24-25 people in attendance in addition to Commissioners Fraasch and Bendel. Maria also read a letter of support from the Women for a Healthy Environment; their efforts center around environmental risks and effects on women and children.

Kelly informed the Board that some groups are exerting pressure on the Commission and that more questions are being generated regarding the playgrounds. She also stated that the deadline for contribution of private funds had been extended, that there would be a review on May 13 and the bid would go out on 5/15. She is assuming that any additional funds needed will come from the unassigned balance, which is around \$600k. Kelly also outlined her requests to the Commission for the use of the unassigned funds and agreed to provide the list to the Board.

Maria questioned whether the Commission would be having a public forum and Kelly advised that she wasn't aware of any plans for this right now.

Recycling Cans in the Parks: Kathy advised that Tom Kelley was researching various containers for cost and durability.

ESB Business

Environmental Team Update: Abby reported that Earth Day was a success and it turned out to be a pleasant day. She is also continuing to work on the website.

New Business

Kelly explained that in the past, the Ultra-Party set up "Accessible Lebo" and has used the funds to purchase equipment. She is setting up a meeting for June 4 with the Parks Advisory Board to discuss making the parks more accessible.

Adjournment: At 10:00 p.m. Maria made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Pam and unanimously approved by the members present.