

**APPROVED**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**January 4, 2022**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

Virtual Meeting began at 7:30PM.

Present: Chris Hartigan, Paul Minor, Letty Savage, Stephanie Gundling, Cassandra Miller-Butterworth, Denise Rose, Rege Ebner, Jim Porcelli

Guests: Jackie DiGiacomo

**Old business**

- Community Garden - In order to determine interest for a community garden we will compose and the Borough will send out via an e-blast a message seeking volunteers to determine interest not only in a community garden but furthermore to determine the type of garden in which people have an interest. A first meeting of volunteers may be a workshop format to direct the effort of any volunteers. The borough has land available and a location could be determined based upon the type of garden to be pursued.
- Issue of garbage along Borough roads - We reviewed different possibilities for identifying and removing garbage in the Borough. A favored approach involved soliciting volunteers to clean up pre-identified portions of roads in the Borough around April 22, 2022, which is Earth Day. We will look into what other entities have done and, with this information, put together plans for the effort in Franklin Park. We will also each out to the District 11 Magistrate's Office to encourage the use of the state's Litter Brigade Program in Franklin Park.
- Monarch butterfly perennials – The primary focus of our discussion was for distributing and educating residents on the benefits of perennials that will attract butterflies and pollinators. Our efforts will be directed for the Festival InThe Park which will be upcoming in late June or early July. At this event we will distribute educational material and also, if available, small plants such as zinnias, marigolds, or sage. Denise also suggested the Festival would provide an opportunity to display tick tubes to show residents an effective deterrent to tick proliferation.
- Acorn Park volunteer day – planning for this event will be delayed until the present Covid surge subsides.

**New business**

- Leaf pick up dates - Denise suggested that the leaf pick-up dates be delayed because it appears the leaves are falling later in the season. Rege will consider suggesting to Council that the dates be moved back one week to determine the effect of such a schedule change. There was also a discussion of the benefits of allowing leaves to remain in place to not only provide soil protection and fertilizer, but also as protection. Certain insects and animals rely on leaf litter for food, shelter and nesting material. Many moth and butterfly caterpillars overwinter in fallen leaves before emerging in spring.
- Publicize Borough/EAC achievements – We discussed publicizing the environmental achievements of the EAC because it appears that some major issues such as glass recycling and the efforts the Borough and multiple environmental organizations such as the Allegheny Land Trust and the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association are not known by some residents. Rege indicated that the Borough is also looking into this issue and considering utilizing social media platforms to more effectively publicize the achievements of the Borough.

There were no landscape drawings to review. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM  
Jim Porcelli - EAC Chair