

APPROVED
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
April 4, 2022
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting began at 7:30PM

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

Guests: Martin Karl, Bob Brecht, Jackie DiGiacomo, Jonathan Teacoat and Gary Sheffler associated with the Nicholson Heights Subdivision Application, and Jafer Makki associated with the Power Home Solar Application

March Meeting Minutes were previously approved.

Old business

- Community Garden

Jackie DiGiacomo gave a summary of the project. At this point the site has been selected across from Linbrook Park. This week Jackie will present her proposal to the Borough Council work session for approval. Initially there will be 10 plots for rent directed at growing annual vegetables. This project has been very well received by residents and the hope is to have the plots rented and set up by June for planting.

- Issue of garbage along Borough Roads

The roadside cleanup day is Saturday, April 30. We have secured a permit with PennDOT and in the very near future will be securing supplies necessary for this workday. An email NEWSBLAST publicizing the event was sent out on 4/4 by the Borough. The Borough will provide vehicles for traffic control and the YMCA has granted permission for the participants to park in their lot. Jim will provide a comprehensive list of supplies in the next couple of days and we will use that as a checklist as we advance. Steph and Paul will acquire supplies while the Borough will additionally provide trash pickup after the event. Jim will try to place paper copies of the announcement in different establishments throughout the Borough.

New Business:

- Landscape Drawing for Conditional Use Application for Power Home Solar

The EAC reviewed the drawing titled “Luke Nosbisch Residence”, Sheet Name - “Plot Plan & Vicinity Map”, Sheet Size - ANSI B 11”x17”, Sheet Number - PV-1 (No date on drawing page) hereinafter referred to as the Power Home Solar Drawing. The Power Home Solar Drawing was submitted to the EAC as a landscape drawing. The only item of note was the existence of a 5 foot fence around the solar panels which appeared to be a violation of existing ordinances. The EAC suggested that if the fence was removed and replaced by shrubs, the particular ordinance

restricting fences would no longer apply. However this was only a recommendation by the EAC and not approval that the project may proceed. In the event shrubs are introduced, the EAC may again review this plan.

- Landscape Drawing for Nicholson Heights Subdivision Application

The EAC reviewed the drawing titled “Nicholson Heights Plan and Lots - Site, Grading, Drainage, Landscape Plan” prepared by J.J.T. Holdings, LLC, Sheet No. C200 original submission by RLS dated March 28, 2022. The EAC has no objections to this plan but recommends the following:

- 1) The dwarf burningbush listed on the Landscape Schedule should be avoided. This is an invasive species and should be replaced with a noninvasive species that is not only deer resistant but salt resistant, since the shrub will be along Nicholson Road.
- 2) Any modifications to the Landscape Schedule must conform to the street tree ordinances of Franklin Park;
- 3) There was a discussion of whether or not a landscape architect seal was required. The EAC will request that the Planning Commission determine whether or not this development requires a landscape architect seal; and
- 4) While it was not clear that a sidewalk is required along Nicholson Road, the EAC suggests that a sidewalk be added along Nicholson Road.

Aside from these recommendations, the owner was agreeable to the suggestion of sidewalks and said this should not cost prohibitive to the project. Furthermore, based upon the landscape plans and indications by the owner, the rear vegetated area of the property is currently planned to remain largely untouched and remain forested.

- We discussed a recent ad in the Sewickley Herald indicating that Penn Energy submitted an application to withdraw more water from Big Sewickley Creek for fracking. At this point it appears that Penn Energy has not provided a complete set of documents for the state to evaluate their request and must provide such documents before the process may advance. Denise will monitor the progress of this application and inform us if and when there may be an appropriate time for the EAC and/or the Borough to submit any comments to the state.

- Steph described the ongoing effort to prepare a Comprehensive Plan for Franklin Park. A survey will be sent to residents seeking their input on what they would like to see in the Borough. A draft of the Public Survey was reviewed by Steph on behalf of the EAC and suggestions were provided to the Borough of additional questions to include from both the EAC and the North Hills Walk Bike Run Alliance (on behalf of the EAC).

The meeting ended at 9:25 PM.

Jim Porcelli
EAC Chair