

DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MAY 1, 2023 @ 7:30PM
MEETING MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7:44 pm.

Attendance:

Present: Cindy Crain, Letty Savage, Denise Rose, Paul Minor, Jim Porcelli, & Elisabeth Vasko

Absent: Chris Hartigan, Stephanie Gundling

Prior Meeting Minutes:

The April 3, 2023, meeting minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Spring Roadside Cleanup - Saturday, April 29, 2023, 10am McAleer Road

Overall, a great turnout for the event. State Representative and 3 council members were in attendance along with several residents and 5-6 children. We will have a few pictures and a summary of the event posted to the website shortly.

- *28 people in attendance*
- *70 bags of trash: Chris/Jim/Paul picked up the bags along McAleer and loaded all the bags into the dumpsters at the BB Activity Center.*
- *Tires: Borough Public Works Dept will pick up the tires collected along the road as well as the small dump site (hydraulic hoses/tires/etc) at the corner of McAleer/Montgomery.*
- *No injuries/no ticks reported.*

It was discussed that a Spring cleanup would be better attended than a Fall cleanup and also the potential of a stream cleanup on the same section in the July timeframe could be a potential.

Acorn Park Green-Up Day

Schedule – June 10 (rain date June 11): discussed maybe moving the date to an evening if we only have a few hours of work as this date is not great for the group at large. A decision should be made soon as the date is fast approaching. August 2023 through Spring of 2024 Acorn will be under construction and won't be accessible for any work.

Define Scope of Work (invasive species removal, plant buckeye trees): Walk the park or discuss in detail with Borough where exactly we plan to do invasive work and planting, so we don't disrupt construction.

EAC Page on Website Updates <https://www.franklinparkborough.us/208/Environmental-Advisory-Council>

1. **Community Garden** – we will post a picture of garden once we have one this year.
2. **Butterfly Pledge** – working on getting a post for the website.
3. **Audubon Backyard Habitat** – we will post this link under news <http://www.aswp.org/pages/backyard-habitat-program>.
4. *There was discussion surrounding the Mt Lebanon Conservancy plant sale along with the Beechwood Farm plant sale. We should check out both of their sites to glean some good information.*
5. *Discussion of putting something on the website regarding ticks. There is free testing in PA of ticks and Denise will send the link/information for that to the group for review/then posting under news to the page.*
6. *“Leave the leaves” post – in the group’s discussion of the tree ordinance it was discussed that there has been an overall shift in standards of landscaping and property maintenance. Letty is going to pull together/write an article/some information on why “leaving your leaves” on your property (under a tree or in your garden) can be great for ecological yard maintenance.*

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting – May 10 @ 6:30pm @ Ohio Township Nature Center

The group approves of the revised goal statement for the comp plan, specifically the “as needed and where appropriate” portion of the statement.

Former: Goal: Expand water and sanitary sewer availability and connections as needed and where appropriate to support both redevelopment and new development.

Revised: Goal: Expand water and sanitary sewer availability and connections as needed and where appropriate to support underserved areas.

Borough Building Oak Tree Replacement

Suggestions sent to FP – Cindy to follow up with Rege on the status of this.

Ordinance Review – Trees

Significant discussion ensued regarding the scope/bandwidth/limitations the EAC will have regarding the Tree Ordinance. The group would like the Solicitor or Council Member(s) to participate as a guest at one of our upcoming meetings to discuss this prior to the EAC compiling its list of recommendations for the ordinance. It was further discussed that in the past in the past the EAC would review developer plans with respect to landscaping/tree preservation and would like to be involved once again with this process. EAC would like the ability to engage in the overall land use ordinance review for further development. Too many developers are grading land right up to the tree root which will/is killing the trees/current landscape of the area. Developers are doing the ‘bare minimum’ required.

Other items mentioned regarding this process are as follows:

- 1. Tree AND Landscape Ordinance or just one/combo.*
- 2. Some boroughs require a permit to remove trees, how would this work for Franklin Park.*
- 3. Elisabeth’s HOA requires approval to cut down a tree of a certain diameter. Do any other Borough HOA’s in the Borough have this similar requirement.*
- 4. State College and Sewickley have elaborate tree ordinances with respect to green space that we should review.*
- 5. What current requirements do we have to preserve trees?*
- 6. Will a new tree ordinance grandfather in existing homeowners in the borough.*

Allegheny County Bicentennial Trees – tabled this discussion point until the June meeting.

- 1. Inventory 15 trees listed in FP*
- 2. Create Nomination Form*
- 3. Draft newsletter article asking for nominations – Denise*
- 4. Deadline Fall 2023*

Festival in the Park – June 24, 2023

- 1. Table Content & Volunteers (Chris & Paul). There was discussion surrounding what supplies we’ll need for this. Jim sent/mailed a list of items we usually have at the table. It was suggested that we reach out to some of the people from the clean up day to see if they would be interested in helping at the table. Further discussion was to keep a “running” list/excel document of volunteers who are interested in assisting with the various EAC events throughout the year.*

New Business:

Franklin Park Facebook Page is Live – Share the page with whomever you think may be interested.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:12pm

Cindy Crain, Borough Liaison and EAC Member