

APPROVED
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
November 2, 2021
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,

Absent: Jim Porcelli

Guests: Steven Pukansky, Bob Brecht, Barbara Carrier, Roy Kraynak, Chris O'Lare, Jackie DiGiacomo, AJ Pinevich

Old business

- None

New Business:

- Update from Allegheny Land Trust on activities related to Franklin Park

Ray Kraynak presented an update on Allegheny Land Trust's (ALT's) existing protected lands, acquired properties and plans for the future. ALT has property on Shipley Lane under contract with closing scheduled for March, 2022. This property will require some demolition and debris cleanup once acquired. Mr. Kraynak presented a map of the properties under ALT control in and around Franklin Park and described the long term goal of connecting these properties to create a walkable trail. In addition, he highlighted the carbon sequestration and water conservation benefits of the properties that ALT is able to conserve. There was a lengthy discussion of near- and long-term plans for the Trust.

- Issue of garbage along Borough roads

AJ Pinevich described his experience with litter (primarily bottles and cans) along Borough roads and his efforts to remove this litter. By his accounts, he has removed over 3,000 bottles and cans from the roadside over the past several years. He is requesting assistance in what he believes is a singular effort on his part. We discussed potential avenues of assistance, including Pickup PA and replicating the McCandless volunteer program for roadside cleanup. A general question was, "What Borough resources are available to address this problem?"

- Community Garden

Jackie DiGiacomo, Junior Council representative, suggested that Franklin Park establish a community garden and offered to provide leadership assistance. Discussion topics included the type of garden (e.g., vegetables, pollinator, etc) and the location of the garden. The Big Sewickley Creek Road property and the Mary Roberts Rinehart Park were two possible locations mentioned during the meeting. A suggestion was made to contact the Sewickley Garden Council for advice and information related to the community garden. Ms. DiGiacomo and the EAC will solicit resident interest via the Borough website and, perhaps, the newsletter. Ms. DiGiacomo can only commit to involvement up to the end of the school year, after which she graduates.

- Request for Allegheny Land Trust support letter for grant to clean up recently acquired land on Shipley Lane Per Ray Kraynak's discussion above, ALT will be applying for a grant to perform demolition and landscape debris cleanup on the Shipley Lane properties. EAC agreed to provide a letter of support to assist in this grant application

- Monarch Butterfly perennials

Denise Rose presented a list of perennials that support butterflies in general and Monarch butterflies in particular. Sources and costs of the plants and seeds were discussed. While no action items were identified, a potential goal of providing butterfly perennial seeds at next year's Festival in the Park was discussed.

- Steps to decrease ticks in yards

Denise Rose discussed methods of dealing with ticks in yards with which she has experience. She has found the use of Thermacell™ Tick Control Tubes to be of value in her yard. There was a discussion of laboratory testing of ticks to determine if they carry certain diseases. The Tick Research Laboratory of Pennsylvania provides free basic testing to PA residents. See <https://www.ticklab.org/test-my-tick>. There are also options for more comprehensive testing and priority processing, at cost.

No landscape plans were received and therefore none were reviewed.

The meeting adjourned at about 9:40PM.

Chris Hartigan
EAC Member