

# West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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## MEETING MINUTES October 28, 2019

### Members Present

Chairperson Jenna Hiester; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Residents Jim Keller and Ryan Lineaweaver; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

### Call to Order

Chairperson Jenna Hiester called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Keller and seconded by Mr. Kaag to approve the minutes of August 26, 2019. Motion carried.

**Resignation** – A letter of resignation was received from Karin Long, which noted her inability to devote sufficient time to serving this committee. Ms. Hiester stated that Ms. Long would be welcome to return to the committee in the future should time permit. Also, it was noted that there would be two vacant seats on this committee.

Motion to accept Ms. Long's letter of resignation from the Environmental Advisory Council. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Keller. **Motion carried.**

**2020 Meeting Schedule** – Committee members reviewed a list of meeting dates for 2020 and it was recommended to move the May meeting to Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> to accommodate committee members schedules surrounding the Memorial Day Holiday.

### Community Garden Update

- **Land Use Agreement** - Ms. Hiester stated that the land use agreement has been accepted by the owner of the property and it was suggested to obtain a copy of the agreement for future reference.
- **Fall Cleanup** – The October 20<sup>th</sup> fall cleanup was poorly attended due to weather conditions. An end of season cleanup has been scheduled on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Late harvesters will be responsible to clear their plots by November 30<sup>th</sup> per the Community Garden registration form rules and responsibilities. All gardeners would be responsible to cover their plots with a weed mat or leaves for the winter season.
- **2020 Goals** – A recommended agenda item for the November meeting was to discuss a list of goals for the year 2020, such as viability of a mural on the wall adjacent to the garden and gardener orientation.

Equipment storage was discussed for the winter season as well as rebuilding of the plots in an arrangement that would allow easier lawn mowing access. Remaining funds generated through plot rentals was unknown and it was suggested to discuss this with the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation prior to purchasing supplies next year. Also noted was the difficulty experienced in hosting events due to budget constraints, the option to raise plot rental fees next year was mentioned.

**Keep PA Beautiful International Coastal Cleanup** – Ms. Hiester provided a summarization of the first fall cleanup efforts, which resulted in 20 adult and two children volunteers collecting 400 pounds of trash and 22 bags of trash. The main items of concern were cigarette butts, glass bottles and takeout containers.

**Update from Council** – Mr. Kaag noted tentative plans to present results of the recent tree inventory during the December Shade Tree meeting. It was recommended that EAC members attend the Shade Tree meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Tabled Business

- PA Sustainable Communities Certification work is planned to resume during the winter months. It was also recommended to review additional grant opportunities.
- Curbside yard waste collection cost information will be provided in the upcoming trash/recycling bid opening. It was suggested that the committee provide a letter of support to Council.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

**Next Meeting: Monday, November 25, 2019 at 6:15PM**