
West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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MEETING MINUTES March 25, 2019

Members Present

Chairperson Jenna Hiester; Council Member Philip Wert; Residents Patrick Kaag, Ryan Lineaweaver, Karin Long, Jim Keller.

Visitor

Helen Moyer, Recreation Director and Andrew Moletress, West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation (WRCRF)
Treasurer

Call to Order

Chairperson Jenna Hiester called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Wert and seconded by Mr. Keller to approve the minutes of February 25, 2019. Motion carried.

Community Garden – Cleanup of the Community Garden is scheduled on Sunday, April 14, 2019; organization of this event and maintenance of the garden is being handled by EAC. The following topics were discussed:

- **Repairs/Upgrades Needed** – Movement of the shed was discussed to allow placement of additional plots in the sun; Kings Auto has offered to maintain the garden equipment at no cost to the WRCRF; a new combination lock may be needed for the gate.
- **Education Plot/Food Bank Partnership** – Ms. Hiester recommended designation of an educational plot to allow various organizations to cultivate the plot and share the yield with local food bank(s).
- **Management/Maintenance & Composting** - Mr. Kaag expressed an interest in learning more about composting and assisting with construction of the bins. Signage would be needed for the bins to ensure compost material is handled appropriately. Volunteers are needed to trim the grass.
- **Review Agreement Rules & Responsibilities** - Review of the license agreement and plot plan is needed as well as open communication with users to sustain a healthy garden.
- **Mural** – A mural in the vicinity of the Community Garden is being planned in memory of Dean Rohrbach.

Earth Day – Earth Day Cleanup is scheduled on Sunday, April 28, 2019; organization of this event is being handled by EAC. The following topics were discussed:

- **Donations** - Businesses will be contacted to request donations and assistance removing trash along Penn Avenue. Mrs. Moyer offered six Reading Phillies tickets for raffle prizes.
- **Volunteers** - Organizations will be contacted to request volunteers with the ability to earn community service hours.
- **Education** - Recreation will provide supplies to craft butterfly and birdhouses for a children's activity. Educational handouts such as living green and a recycling list will also be provided to the children. An electronic recycling drop-box will be available at the Pavilion.
- **Registration** – Registration for the cleanup will take place at the Pavilion, registration will also be available for Community Garden plots; a laminated map will be used to track the streets being cleaned by volunteers; Keep PA Beautiful will provide the gloves, bags and vests.

Playground Program Educational Project – EAC plans to provide an educational program during the 2019 Playground Program, the topic of study will be determined at a later date.

Berks County Conservation District Membership – Moved by Mr. Keller and seconded by Mr. Kaag to provide a Nurturer of Conservation Membership in the amount of \$100. Motion carried.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 22, 2019 at 6:15PM