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# West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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## MEETING MINUTES August 26, 2019

### Members Present

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

### Visitors

Andrew Moletress, Resident

### Call to Order

Chairperson Jenna Hiester called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Keller to approve the minutes of July 22, 2019. Motion carried.

**Community Garden** – Due to recent notification by the Borough of the required maintenance of grass/weed growth within the garden the following options were discussed to illicit a better response from garden plot members:

- **Regular Rotation** – Alteration of the rules and responsibilities of garden plot members to require a weekly schedule of mowing/trimming.
- **Violators** – Increase of consequences for neglecting garden plots and mowing deficiencies.
- **Increased Fee** – Increasing the plot fee to provide funds to hire a landscaper once per month.

Members discussed at length preventative measures to control the grass and weeds such as mat placement over beds that are not in use, alternate trash cans that are easier to transport, coordination of maintenance and compost drop off on the first Saturday of the month at the Borough Garage, eradicating vines/berries, reminder to mow/weed which area outside of fencing, beginning of season orientation to educate gardeners on care of equipment and planting species that would help control the insect population in common areas. Ms. Hiester will be sending another email reminder to garden plot members to request electronic registration to mow the Community Garden. Mr. & Mrs. Kaag offered to fill in the gaps in the mowing schedule for the remainder of the season.

A date for the final season cleanup of the garden was scheduled on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> with a suggestion to donate excess vegetables at the weekly Farmers' Market on Penn Avenue. Also, it was suggested to create "Help Yourself" sign posts for gardeners to post at their plot when they no longer are in need of the harvest.

Ms. Hiester noted that the land use agreement would be discussed during the upcoming West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation meeting.

**Fall Cleanup** – Ms. Heister noted the September 29<sup>th</sup> fall cleanup date, which is coordinated with the Keep PA Beautiful International Coastal Cleanup and the final Concert in the Park event. Keep PA Beautiful will provide the supplies, and contact has been made with the Recreation Director to plan the activity from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mr. & Mrs. Kaag volunteered to transfer the gloves, bags and vests from the Community Garden shed to the pavilion area and the Public Works Department will be requested to provide access to a truck to haul away the collected debris. Mrs. Kaag will contact Culligan to request a donation of bottled water for the event and Ms. Hiester will advertise the event on Facebook and request that participants bring their own reusable water bottle.

**Update from Council** – There were no updates from Council or the Borough Manager, however Mr. Kaag will discuss the topic of cloverleaf mowing with Council.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

**Next Meeting: Monday, September 23, 2019 at 6:15PM**