

Swarthmore Environmental Advisory Council
MEETING MINUTES
August 23, 2016

In Attendance: Susan Kelly, Chair; Members: Nancy English, Fintan McHugh. Phil Coleman, Melissa Tier and Ashley Grider were also in attendance. A quorum was not present.

Old Business:

AFewSteps

On a personal note, Phil Coleman explained how his cancer has been responding very favorably to treatment. This was the highlight of the meeting, and we all wish Phil a speedy recovery. Hopefully he will be back to full health by the time the second park cleanup comes around this fall.

Phil explained that there will be a meeting on August 24th with traffic engineer Tom Schaeffer about reducing bussing in the school district. Specifically, they will be using the Swarthmore Rutledge School as a pilot, with an initial goal of eliminating one bus route. Car pools and walk-pools will be considered, with an additional benefit of reducing the number of times that children will need to cross major thoroughfares without the benefit of a group.

Melissa added that she and six green advisors from Swarthmore College are setting up sustainability assessments of the 100 plus houses within the Swarthmore College housing system.

Phil and Melissa also discussed the benefits and expanding role of comparative surveys with energy providers, such as OPower, as well as the new PECO surveys being performed for members within its AC Saver Program

LCC Park Work Day: Initial dates for a work day in September were discussed, without a general consensus and choice to set a specific date. Susan plans to follow up once additional members have communicated their availability, and it was discussed that community calendar issues be considered, including the fall break weekend.

BUDGET PLANNING FOR 2017

Before the meeting, Doug circulated a priority list for items to present to Borough Council for 2017 budget items. There was general agreement with the order of priority as listed in Doug's memo, with some additional items to be considered.

Initially, the basic operating needs for 2017 were discussed, including reseeding the central lawn portion of the park where dead trees laid fallow, removal of the stray granite slabs from the upper portion of the park, removal of damaged and undesirable stone fireplaces in the central portion of the park, and possible surveying and treatment for any ash trees and oak trees that would respectively be threatened by the emerald ash borer and the oak fungus affecting the southeastern Pennsylvania area. Susan is looking into potential cost estimates for the grading, or at least aerating and seeding of the upper portion.

Susan mentioned that other immediate needs would include repairs to the damaged fence section along Cresson Avenue, and the installation of milkweed plants in the central portion of the park (which could be obtained through Redbud Nurseries).

In terms of future improvements to the park, there was agreement that the canine waste disposal stations would be a welcome addition at both park entrances. It was also discussed that the metal gazebo roof needs to be replaced. The potential involvement of Boy Scouts could be considered, although ladder constraints for Boy Scouts could preclude them from working on the roof. Fintan agreed to look into estimates from roofers or other contractors who may be able to complete the job. With respect to longer term ideas, a permanent toilet structure was shelved due to a cost that could exceed \$50,000, and it was instead agreed that temporary port-a-potty rentals would suffice for important events in the park. Susan agreed to look into the cost of rental a port-a-potty for a few months of the year.

Ashley discussed the need for the budget requests to include a separate category for the recycling/disposal program, which includes all types of waste disposal outside of trash. She explained the need for a specific proposal to be made to Borough Council for a recycling designer, and that budget amounts would need to be specified for community outreach and education. It was also discussed that a write up might be needed on the Borough website for awareness purposes. Mark and Lauren were suggested as two individuals with strong writing skills that might further this purpose. Melissa mentioned that the College already has a person performing a fellowship specifically regarding waste issues, Andina. Susan has been in touch with Andina, and she hopes to attend the EAC meeting on September 27th.

Upcoming Events at Little Crum Creek Park:

On the evening of August 24th, the Strath Haven High School Boys' Cross-Country Team Picnic will occur in the park. On September 17th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. the Delco Debates presents Hyde Park Speakers Corner at the park. Other potential upcoming events were discussed, such as a dance performance and movie night.

EAC 2016 Meeting Dates

On the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., the EAC will meet in the Community room. These dates include September 27, October 25, November 22 and possibly December 27 (holidays permitting).