

Englewood Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes August 13, 2012

Present: Lynne Algrant, Darryl Green, Steve Wiessner, Toni Fay, Crystal Brown, Lorraine Cohen, Jack Silberman, Aleta Frezzell

Absent: Gerald Marion

Guests: Stephanie Noda, Reporter – Suburbanite

Meeting called to order 7:40 p.m.

Adjourned: 9:00 p.m.

Crystal made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 9, 2012 meeting pending amendment. Motion passed. Lynne stated that she would abstain from voting.

Old Business:

- EEC Membership Clarification – Mayor will make decision by tomorrow. Lynne will advise Commissioners.
- Invite members former Green Team members and reach out to new members after priorities are set.
- Tree Inventory/Arborist - Lynne will follow up with DPW and the City Manager - need to engage someone as early as September if possible, to conduct a tree inventory and work on the Forestry Management Plan. Some of the work completed by previous Arborist may be able to be used if we can get in our possession. Still have monies which were not paid. Also have an additional \$5,000. Under Sustainable New Jersey we can get points for a tree inventory, a forestry management plan, computerized assessment for municipal trees and a community forestry program which is 20 points. We have a year to submit our documentation for Sustainable New Jersey.
- Site Plan and Topography – Awaiting clarification from Ken Alpert. Item will be put on next month's agenda.

Review 2009 Master Plan elements and NRI recommendations for the current Master Plan process:

- Recreation and Open Space – 2008 did not take into effect the 2009 economy such as affordable housing obligations and some of the ideas about the shape and future of Englewood. Also did not address Lincoln and Liberty school sites. Need to effectively address the conservation of what open space we have. Some things listed are no longer still in existence such as Greico School where Durie Park was.
- Open Space Tax - 27 towns have open space tax in Bergen County. Closter sets aside -\$20 to \$40 of unallocated monies. Residents can apply for a grant and build a capital fund so if a piece of land becomes available it can be purchased. Something could be created like an Eleanor Harvey Park. It was suggested that statement should be added about maintaining the

integrity of our canopy and specific recommendations and goals to maintain existing open space. Could be done with an open space tax.

- Bicycle paths and walk ways: Recommended that a study be done like in other municipalities such as Teaneck and Tenafly have done. We could connect with them. Signage needed.
- Question proposed re status of makeover in park at Depot Square inclusive of amphitheater and our part as far as recreation. Policy in place? No City recreation monies being paid to suppliers of recreation.
- Challenge in getting enough life guards at pool. The theory is rather than to lose \$100,000 on pools, use the lifeguards from the Y.
- Build out analysis- zoning which allows for certain uses – some of those uses are not being fully maximized now. Four family area that only has a two family house – this build out doubles population.

Recycling:

- Last recycling analysis, we were in 21% -23%. Whole county 35%. Bergen County had a goal of 35% but did not reach goal. Follow up to be done. Purchase pending of one man mechanical garbage truck which will reduce three people on a truck to one person. Will experiment in one of the wards. Strengthen recycling efforts in the business district. Challenges are private haulers. Could give tax incentives, rebates, citation over a certain period of time. Publish list of those in compliance. A lot communities do not have curb pick up for leaves. Private landscapers must get registered before coming into the DPW yard. DPW will pick up eight bags of leaves at a time. Will revisit. Tighten window of street pick up.
- Strengthen composting through info demonstration. Invite Enforcement Coordinator Raymond Romney to advise what recommendations we can make to the City Council and DPW to move this effort along, and what tools he needs to make this happen. Start with education and then stronger measures. Suggestion to obtain information on the number of residents issued parking tickets as a result of the leaves.

Sustainability :

- Address conservation of what open space we have – Status for plan of recreation programs? Policy for outside vendors, i.e., the Y, Boys and Girls Clubs of America and summer jobs program. Land use or open space or both - needs to be an analysis where it tells you what would happen if zoning were built out to its maximum of whatever it was zoned for. Recreation Plan –Suggestion was made that we should look at all Wards and connect people from cradle to grave. Build out plan might be a phase II. It was stated that something has to be

done with the firehouse, Liberty school and that whole gateway of combining this side of town close to McKay Park. Also the industrial side.

Lynne advised that the EEC received literature from Ed Schwartz, Clean Energy Program on teaching residents how to make their houses more energy efficient. This would be free. Typically done in libraries. They would need group to sponsor them and encourage people to participate. Lynne will look into.

Conclusions and Recommendations For NRI:

Planning Board is working on having NRI built into Master Plan.

NRI Subcommittee Meeting – A list of suggested recommendations to be added to the existing NRI was discussed. Private contractors were used on Dean Street across from Oprandys. May be have been thought that additional help with mulching was needed. It is believed that there was no cost involved but rather some sort of an exchange in kind. In most cases our own mulch is used.

Contracts and partner opportunities – Question raised if there is someone that coordinates for outside contractors to make sure there is leverage for our advantage.

Climate and air quality, anti idling – high concentration traffic school buses were not included in NRI and could be added.

Montclair has been doing geo coding using GIS. Lynne will ask Ken to come and advise us what equipment we have.

Academies at Englewood students are required to complete 40 hours of public service before graduation. Approximately 400 students. Cliff Nesfield, Environmental Science teacher at the Academies could be liaison. Students and City could benefit from establishing a project.

Discussed some items that can be used for points for Sustainable Jersey certification. Handouts for September meeting on how we earned our points to get Sustainable Jersey certification. Can also go to website.

Lynne will follow up with Chamber or EEDC about awards we could hand out to businesses for green compliance.

Respectfully submitted:

Aleta Frezzell

