

Englewood Environmental Commission meeting January 11, 2016

Present: Ellen Forman, Jack Silberman, Sara Stroman, Crystal Brown, Chelsea Gleis, Stephen Wiessner

Guests: Kevin Lake, Eugene Clements

Start time: 7:45pm

Ellen welcomed Sara Stroman, the newly appointed Commissioner.

Crystal made a motion for the December minutes to be approved as amended. Jack seconded.

Committee Reports:

Communications: Ellen reported that the EEC 2015 Annual Report had been submitted to the city, as is required of the Commission. Chelsea brought up that the next MyEnglewood will be coming out in March.

Environmental Health: Crystal reported that the City had passed two resolutions designating the Third Street Community Garden and Louie Bacoat Historic Community Garden as open space at the December 15 council meeting. Crystal said that she had been trying for 11 years to get the Third Street garden designated as an official open space and was curious as to why the garden was now being placed under the supervision of the EEC.

Land Use/Planning: Anthony David was not present

Open Space: Jack reported with regards to Herring Park that for a period of time half the lights were shut off, but that has since changed and all of the lights are on again at night.

Sustainable Jersey: Chelsea reported that Englewood currently has 50 points. Chelsea said that she would send an e-mail with the planned action items.

Open Business:

Sustainable Development Checklist: Ellen is going to sit down with Tim to see if we really need an ordinance or if there's another way of getting it done.

Green Team: There was a meeting in December and another scheduled for Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00PM. Ellen said that she believes the Green Fair should be a single day. This is one of the items to be discussed at the January 19 Green Team meeting.

New Business:

ANJEC Grant Opportunity: Ellen wrote an overview of the green fair in order to apply for an ANJEC grant.

Dark Skies: Crystal brought up the issue that the library is planning to install a light which is in conflict with the principal of dark skies.

2016 schedule – dates/times: Chelsea made a motion to move the meetings to 7:00PM going forward. Jack seconded.

2016 priorities: Crystal would like to have all bodies of water in the city tested for pollutants. And also have the land around schools tested for contamination. And if there's any contamination found, to have remediation. She would like to see a citywide composting program. Crystal also brought up the issue that the one-armed garbage trucks have, on days when both trash and recycling are picked up, the garbage trucks have been picking up both trash and recycling and putting them in the same truck. Crystal said she had received a number of calls from people about this. Chelsea said that she and her neighbors had experienced the same thing.

Sara would like to see more education. She takes her compost into Manhattan to the Union Square Farmers Market where the Lower East Side Ecology Center. Sara said it's a priority for her personally to start a local composting program.

Jack & Ellen went to the city finance department to find out how much the city is paying per Kilowatt hour for electricity.

Crystal made a suggestion for us to put together a list for 2016 priorities and come to next month's meeting prepared to vote for 3-4 priorities.

Public comment:

Eugene Clements asked the commission to consider formulating a policy to reduce the amount of light on the city and cited the library as an example of a building that needs to replace lighting that is not owned by PSE&G. He would like to see shielded, dimmable, LED replacement lighting.

Kevin Lake encouraged enforcement of the artificial lighting ordinance as well as other ordinances, specifically the updated Tree Ordinance.

Crystal made motion to adjourn at 9:20 pm, seconded by Jack.