

Allentown EAC Meeting Minutes 07-12-10 Rev. 8-11-10

Attendance

Karen El Chaar, Sarah Hailstone, Claudia Steckel, Dave McGuire, Dan Poresky, Andrew Kleiner, Karen Tuerk, Julie Thomases, Peter Terry, Tom Kerr

5:18

Andrew moves to approve June minutes Dave seconds Passed

Expecting guest Ray Wolf – no show

Welcome – Claudia. Plant inventory hand-out of natural area along cedar creek riparian corridor between Ott and Cedar Crest. Native plants *are* coming in and diversifying naturally – do we *need* to add new things if there has been an estimated 90% failure rate of October 2009 herbaceous plantings in the buffer zone. Is there a new planting date in the fall? Consistent invasive control might be a better strategy than new plantings. Good opportunity for public involvement in invasive control.

-Dan suspects City will *not* pull invasives, K. El Chaar agrees that City staff will mow rather than pull due to staffing issues. Need to organize volunteer army to pull invasives.

Hemlock issue – huge poison hemlock issue along Cedar Creek parkway – is this a public health issue? Keep it out of the news? How do we get rid of it and how?

Loosestrife, Canada thistle, and hemlock were cut by City (w/ no communication w/ eac). Loosestrife, hemlock and mustard cannot just be cut – seed can still mature and have long-term viability. CANNOT be put in compost either. Needs proper disposal. Someone needs to talk to Greg Weitzel about this. Communications about invasives should be all or nothing. Dave, Karen and Andrew will talk to Greg about this issue. (Sarah H. informed us that Greg is aware of invasives)

****Action Item – Karen needs to set up meeting with Greg to see how EAC can help facilitate volunteer effort for pulling invasives****

Karen El Chaar – Grant application to assist in plant species removal – training of individuals who will remove those plants. Put in for 3 grants; training, enlisting professional support for identification of plants and proper removal (when, where, how?), disposal – where does it have to go? Priorities. Cedar Creek 2011, Jordan Park, Trout Creek were all included in application. 1.5 – 2 yr cycle for \$25K, \$5 K, \$5-15K. Max of \$45K to go toward project. National fish and wildlife foundation – should hear by Aug, Oct, and ?? (Cora Brooks foundation) respectively. FOP has 'corps of volunteers' including churches, colleges, community groups.

- 3 year strategic plan – environmental issues and other issues that could use grant help.
 - Dave brought up algae in ponds throughout system – Parks and Recreation working with dept. of fish and wildlife regarding the problem – but public, EAC and FOP are not included, invited, etc. EAC will put together a list of specific issues that could be addressed – Dave & Andrew will lead on this.

Andrew – S. Mountain tour 7/11/10– Andrew, Dave, Claudia, Dan, Rebecca Kennedy and about 15 others – Ran into motor bikes – motor bike rider dismounted and lit a fire to grill sausages. Lots of new public and very positive support. Thanks to everyone that came out and helped with the info. Working really well for public outreach. Next up – trout creek parkway to speak exclusively about invasives. Will speak w/ Mike Gilbert about current strategies.

NO SIGNAGE at S. Mtn. saying fires illegal, biking, etc. Clearly signage is required. This was excuse

of individual making fire. Problem with signage – people breaking the wall are coming into S. Mtn reserve in places other than sanctioned entry points. Dave suggests list of ordinances in place to post – in addition to associated fines and punishments. Dan suggests posts, chains and signage at favored points. Claudia cites previous experience that people will clear new paths. Are ATVs licensed? Karen El Chaar suggests that Salisbury EAC should be contacted to work in conjunction –

****Action Item: Dan will initiate a relationship with Salisbury EAC. *****

Jordan Park – water quality issues, how to get Nitrogen *out* of water. Karen El Chaar put in grant request for grant to cover 28 walks over the course of the year. In depth looks at Jordan, Cedar Creek, etc. Rose Garden Neighborhood Association - Claudia has been leading walks over the course of the year regarding botany.

**** Karen T. and Julie will work together to bring riparian buffer signage to design expert to finish project.**

Peter Terry – by-laws. Need to nominate Vice-chair and had agreed at last meeting to elect vice-chair at this meeting. As by-laws are currently written, vice-chair only serves when chair is not present (no other duties). Julie brought up City Council ordinance that EAC chair will be chosen by EAC effective January 2011. *How* do we elect vice-chair? Nominate? What is the role of the Chair? Chair convenes meetings, plans and assembles agenda and seeks to maintain civil procedures and decorum. Julie nominated Peter (peter refused).

****Andrew nominated Dave – Peter brings motion to elect Dave as Vice-Chair, Karen T. seconds, voted unanimously (1 abstention – Dave).**

Choosing the next chair. Could a non –EAC member act as nominating committee – e.g. canvas for ideas about who the chair would be in the circumstance. Choose this person in October - EAC will vote on this person in Oct. Canvassing will occur through fall.

Filling vacancies – currently only Mayor or Council can appoint new members, EAC may make suggestions but cannot appoint or reject new members. Recruit and recommend new individuals – need to have place on website to solicit resumes. Cannot wait for Mayor or City Council to nominate b/c it won't happen. EAC needs to put qualified people in front of Mayor/Council. Identify good science and best management practices. Would be ideal if they (Mayor or Council) brought potential candidates to us if that arises.

****Peter Terry will try to write by-laws to reflect these issues filling vacancy****

Secretary – take minutes, prepare agenda, notify members of hearings. Dan is doing all of this aside from minutes –

****Dave nominates Andrew to be secretary – Karen T. seconds, unanimous**

Dan and Andrew will get together to work out duties

6:40 Tom Kerr arrives.

Andrew wants administrative issues to be pushed through so we can discuss more action-oriented environmental issues.

Sarah Hailstone suggests that EAC should send letters to Mayor or City Council prior to sending things to public or Morning Call.

Julie – Vacancy draft of what we want for EAC members, draft will go out to Dan by mid-afternoon, EAC later on – comments to be sent back and then disseminated. Used as tool for recruiting.

Tom Kerr – conservation program, Green Tab is up on website – solar panel news release Dan attended.

Notification re: state monies and where they are going. Green tab – notify about EAC vacancies.

Dave McGuire – lights in the Parkway, informal understanding that 2009 would be last year that it runs.

Dave moves that we write letter against lights in parkway, Andrew seconds. Passed unanimously – Dave will write letter. Dan will also make some phone calls to mayor, etc. Sarah H. informs us that planning is already underway.

Destination Park in Cedar Beach – EAC made no formal comment – but footprint was within ring of trees that would NOT be cut. NO additional parking will be added. Three new tear-shaped footprints to East of main playground that have never been included in any public plans. Dan will go take a look.

Parks and Recreation committee meeting (council) 21st at 6:30 – discussion of S. Mtn. stewardship plan as well as approval of funds for 'unforeseen expenses' in Cedar Beach Park.

Morning Call story had more information about Sludge facility – if city gets grant and pilot project if that goes well city will go ahead with expansion \$14 million waste to energy plan. Dan went back to talk to Phil Jones – who talked to Ken Bennington – Environmental Management Services (EMS), P.T. Is under impression that they are likely to be hired by city to investigate project as a private contractor.

\$2244 w/ AEDC - they need to get it off their books. Can they send it to Friends of the Parks?
Julie will ask Karen El Chaar to administer funding.

7:18pm adjourned