Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting Minutes
7/3/2018

PRESENT: Chair Sue Beffel; Vice-chair Irwin Flashman; Committee Members Doug Britt, Carl Mitchell, Lois Phemister, Emily Vorek; Staff Liaisons Katie Shaw, Claudia Thompson-Deahl (via teleconference)

ABSENT WITH CAUSE: Committee Members Jon Damm, Robin Duska, Sally Kidd, Eric Weinstein, Board Liaison Eric Carr

GUESTS: None.

I. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

A. Call to Order & Opening Remarks
Sue called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m., and a quorum was established.

B. Adoption of Agenda
Irwin moved to adopt the July 3, 2018 agenda. Doug seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Adoption of Minutes
Doug moved to adopt the minutes of the June 5, 2018 meeting as amended. Irwin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Member Comments
Emily commented that there will be a new stream monitoring training program on July 8 at Nature House in partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Monitoring will include chemical testing for water quality.

Sue commented that she was contacted by Emily Cox who has an interest in joining the EAC and participating in other environmental activities. Also Stephanie Vargas has joined the RASER Working Group and may still be interested in joining the EAC.

II. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

E. State of the Environment Report (RASER)- Update
The RASER group met on July 2. Drafts of existing conditions and conclusions are requested in the next two weeks. The next meeting will be on July 23.
The RASER WG is still trying to reach the Reston Town Center Association about doing a presentation and opening a dialogue with RTC. It would like RA’s advice on the best way to facilitate a meeting.

F. Litter Working Group- Update
The working group met on June 12 and made progress on completing the master list of litter sites. The next meeting will be on July 11. The group will be reviewing a draft of another pilot project.

G. Development/Redevelopment- Updates & Biophilic Cities Letter
The Biophilic Cities letter will be an item in the RA Board Operations Committee packet. On Monday, July 9, the BOC will decide whether to include the item on the full RA Board’s consent calendar at their next meeting. Members of the EAC will try to attend the BOC meeting.

There will be a meeting on July 16 about the Hidden Creek Golf Course. The owner is preparing for development. Neighboring areas have been purchased by the same developer. There has been a request from the EQAC Parks & Recreation chapter authors for information on the Hidden Creek Golf Course development.

This month, there will be four public meetings with Fairfax County on different aspects of densification in the PRC. The dates are published in RA News and Reston Now. The topic of the July 18 meeting is open space. It will take place at RA headquarters.

H. EAC Tips- Format
The Communications Department has requested a new “less cumbersome” format for the monthly EAC tips. Tips will now be grouped one per month by year on the RA website. Also, fewer links will be included. The next tip will be about reducing the amount of turf grass.

I. Announcements, Upcoming Activities & Meetings
The July calendar of events for the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is available.

The next meeting of the RA Lakes and Boats Working Group will be on July 12. Its first meeting included introductions and background information on related issues. Pertinent policies and regulations have been distributed to members of the group. The mission of the group is to review and update policies and rules documents as deemed appropriate for recommendation to the RA Board by November and note any items that would have budget implications.

The Walker Nature Center has several adult programs coming up for the summer. The Annual Butterfly Class and Count will be on July 5 and 7. The Annual Dragonfly Class and Count will be on July 26 and 28. The Summer Shorts Environmental Film Fest, co-presented by Friends of Reston, will be on August 3. The next Reston Bird Walk will be on July 8.

The Reston/Herndon Indivisible Group will meet on July 11.
Residents have reported a major bee kill of more than 1,500 bees, identified by bee expert Sam Droege. The mostly bumblebees were found dead under Linden trees in a Reston cluster. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is conducting a pesticide investigation. The state apiarist is also involved.

The Cross School Road Meadow is beautiful and has seen an amazing year of plant growth.

The Jack Nicholas Golf Course may be a good model for clubs in Reston. It features pollinator gardens with interpretive signage.

The EAC will not meet in August. The next meeting will be on September 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Walker Nature Center.

III. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

J. Adjourn

Carl moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Doug seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Shaw
Nature Center Manager/Staff Liaison