Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting Minutes
12/4/18

PRESENT: Chair Sue Beffel; Vice-chair Irwin Flashman; Committee Members Robin Duska, Jon Damm, Doug Britt, Emily Vorek; Carl Mitchell, Nancy Malesic, Board Liaison Eric Carr, Staff Liaison Claudia Thompson-Deahl

ABSENT WITH CAUSE: Committee Members Sally Kidd, Lois Phemister, Eric Weinstein; Staff Liaison Katie Shaw

GUESTS: None

I. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

A. Call to Order & Opening Remarks
   Irwin called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., and a quorum was established.

B. Adoption of Agenda
   Robin moved to adopt the December 4, 2018 agenda. Doug seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Adoption of Minutes
   Robin moved to adopt the minutes of the November 8, 2018 meeting with one change, the insertion of “At least” in the sentence “At least 25 acres out of 50 acres of land at the U.S. Geological Survey is looking to be sold for development”. Doug seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Member Comments
   Robin knows 2 people who are interested in joining the committee and will get their contact information to Sue, Karen Sughrue and Matthew Palagyi.

II. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

E. Development/Redevelopment
   A developer is interested in acquiring 30 acres from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The committee wants to learn more about how the process would work since federal authorization would be required as well as offers of the land to other federal agencies.
A PRC hearing was held today, December 4, 2018. There may be a delay of the sale as Supervisor’s Foust and Cook have questioned the process. The current market is contributing to slowing development. The bottom floor of the existing building has been leased to the military due to the USGS being downsized.

F. Reston State of the Environment Report (RASER) Update
The final report is getting posted online. The committee would like to see a communications package created to include an announcement in RA news and Facebook as well as an article in Reston magazine, a flyer and a press release to Reston Now. Eric will find out the process for asking the RA Board to accept the recommendations.

G. Litter Working Group Update
A proposal regarding a recycling pilot project at Lake Anne Village Center will be circulated to EAC members within a week. Comments are welcome. The proposal will be shared with the Board Operations Committee. An email vote on committee approval will be needed.

H. Lakes Boats & Docks Working Group Update
The review process has been slow. The next meeting will be December 12, 2018. Over 25% of the boats aren’t meeting current guidelines. Boats will be measured using the Coast Guard method. Three horse power is the current guideline, but it will be going up to 5 Hp or 130 pounds of thrust.

Clusters aren’t supposed to have boats along more than 50% of the available common shoreline property. Legal counsel has been consulted on how to handle existing violations. If out of compliance, RA will work with clusters to restore the affected natural areas. The recommendations of the working group will be shared with lakefront owners for comments during focus group sessions.

I. Bee Kill Update and Natural Areas Rules Update
An article by a private citizen has been written about last summer’s bee kill in Reston. The committee would like to share the final version with the RA Board.

A meeting is scheduled with the RA Attorney, Anthony Champ, to review and update the Natural Areas Rules for Association Common Area. Items for discussion include the EAC’s recommendations regarding, the release of balloons and sky lanterns as well as the prohibition of cat shelters and the feeding of outdoor cats on Association property.

J. Announcements, Upcoming Activities & Meetings
RA Watershed Manager Nicki Bellezza will be leaving RA to work for Fairfax Water. Brian Kayhart started work as the Environmental Resource Supervisor, replacing Patricia Greenberg.

There will be an EQAC hearing at the Fairfax County Government Center on Wednesday, January 9.

RA and stream monitoring volunteers are using salinity kits to determine the salinity levels in streams after de-icing salt has been used for ice and snow.

The final plan set for the Wakerobin/Cedar Cove stream project will be presented by Fairfax
County’s planning team at the Government Center on January 29th.

The RA Annual Winter Bird Count is scheduled for January 5, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., with a lunch and sector results after the count. Contact RA Naturalist Abby Stocking to sign up.

III. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

K. Adjourn

Doug moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Robin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Claudia Thompson-Deahl
Sr. Environmental Resource Manager/Staff Liaison