Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting Minutes  
2/5/19

PRESENT: Chair Sue Beffel (7:09 p.m. via phone; 8:16 p.m. in person); Vice-chair Irwin Flashman; Committee Members Jon Damm (8:25 p.m.), Robin Duska, Doug Britt, Carl Mitchell, Nancy Malesic (via phone), Lois Phemister, Eric Weinstein (via phone), Emily Vorek; Staff Liaison Katie Shaw, Claudia Thompson-Deahl

ABSENT WITH CAUSE: Committee Member Sally Kidd; Board Liaison Eric Carr

GUESTS: Emily Cox, Tom Mulkerin, Matthew Palagyi

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 with Nancy and Eric W. via telephone. Visitors were welcomed.

B. Adoption of Agenda
Robin moved to adopt the February 5, 2019 agenda. Doug seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sue joined the meeting via phone.

C. Adoption of Minutes
Carl moved to adopt the minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting. Doug seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Member Comments
Introductions were made. Emily is a member of the Litter Working Group with an interest in reducing single use plastic. Matthew is a George Mason University student interested in joining a working group. Tom is running for an At-Large seat on the RA Board. Although candidates are all unopposed, 10% of RA members must vote for the election to be valid.
II. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

E. Committee Leadership
Sue and Irwin’s terms as Chair and Vice-chair expired in July of 2018. Anyone interested in assuming a leadership role on the committee is encouraged to apply. In the meantime, they will continue acting in these roles. Both Sue and Irwin will submit for a new term if no one else is interested.

F. Committee Work Plan
The committee reviewed its 2018 work plan. It documented the status of each item and began to develop items for its 2019 work plan. A suggestion was made to link work plan items to RASER where appropriate.

G. Development/Redevelopment
Fairfax County may delay its vote on the proposed raising of the Reston density cap until 2020. Supervisor Hudgins will not seek re-election.

H. Reston State of the Environment Report (RASER) Update
A new PowerPoint presentation on RASER has been developed. The South Lakes High School Principal and Science Curriculum Coordinator have been contacted to see if a presentation to students would be possible.

The EAC would like to keep the full 2017 RASER report on the RA website, including the Executive Summary. Going forward, it would like all full reports and executive summaries to be maintained on the website. The EAC thanks RA staff member Chalise Johnson-Kidd for uploading the 2018 full report and chapters.

A Cats Indoors presentation has been received from the American Bird Conservancy.

I. Litter Working Group
On January 24, the RA Board approved the single use plastic waste reduction pilot project. The working group will be working on materials to take to the Lake Anne merchants. The next meeting will be on February 19.

Jon joined the meeting.

J. Lakes Boats & Docks Working Group Update
Two focus group sessions have been completed—one for clusters and another for condos. Reports from these sessions will be heard at the next meeting on February 7. The working group has recommended RA resolution changes. The issue of lake erosion problems may come to the EAC. There are 5 unresolved issues, including one that relates to the need to preserve 50% of natural shoreline in cluster/condo areas. RASER supports enforcement of this policy. Another issue is about the responsibility of passengers in vessels.

K. Announcements, Upcoming Activities & Meetings
Conductivity has been rising as an indication of increased salt content in Reston streams. Doug is
Environmental Advisory Committee participating in the county’s Salt Watch program as an extension of his stream monitoring work. Comparisons of salinity before and after ice melt pre-treatment applications on roadways are being made. The EAC would like to see this program expanded in Reston.

An Environmental Quality Advisory Council held a public meeting at the Government Center. Topics and groups that spoke were shared with the committee. Most speakers addressed topics related to climate change and energy. Others included the poor recycling rate in the county and how the incineration plant may be contributing to childhood illness. Don Coram presented 2018 Reston bee kill data.

The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions will be scheduling a visit to the recycling plant.

All three plastic bag bills are dead at the state level. There is bipartisan support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.

The Audubon Photography Awards Show will be on exhibit at the Walker Nature Center February 8-27. There will be a special Open House on February 10.

The Reston Waterfowl Tour is on February 24.

The All Gardeners’ Meeting is on February 23.

Plant NoVa Natives will have an event in Fairfax on February 26.

There is a job opening for a Natural Areas staff position.

Dam inspections are underway on Reston lakes.

The Lake House will be the site of the Deloitte Impact Day in June. Volunteers will be planting natives.

Wetland Studies and Solutions has been observed using drone imaging at Buttermilk Creek. There is a meeting on February 6 on the new reach near the Unitarian Church.

III. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

L. Adjourn

Robin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. Sue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Shaw
Nature Center Manager/Staff Liaison

February 5, 2019
Environmental Advisory Committee