Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting Minutes
6/4/19

PRESENT: Chair Sue Beffel; Vice-chair Irwin Flashman; Committee Members, Robin Duska, Doug Britt, Carl Mitchell, Lois Phemister, Nancy Malesic, Emily Cox, Jon Damm; Karen Sughrue; Sally Kidd (via phone); Staff Liaison: Claudia Thompson-Deahl; Board Liaison: Tom Mulkerin

ABSENT WITH CAUSE: Board Liaison: Eric Carr; Staff Liaison Katie Shaw; Committee Members: Eric Weinstein, Emily Vorek

GUESTS: William Pegues, Koaw Zaczek, Eiman Hajabbasi

I. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

A. Call to Order & Opening Remarks
   Irwin called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m., and a quorum was established. Visitors were welcomed.

B. Adoption of Agenda
   Robin moved to adopt the June 4, 2019 agenda. Irwin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Adoption of Minutes
   Carl moved to adopt the minutes of the May 7, 2019 meeting. Irwin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There was a correction to the minutes- Karen Sughrue went through the BOD process, not Surekha Sridhar.

D. Member Comments
   Eiman commented that as a mother she has concerns about cancer risks and the use of Glysophate in Reston. Koaw is new to Reston and wanted to learn about what we are working on.

II. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

E. EAC Work Plan Update
   The Work Plan was approved by the BOD.

F. Fairfax County Environmental Excellence Award Nomination-RASER/Funding Request

June 4, 2019
Environmental Advisory Committee
The nomination was delivered to Fairfax County. This will be awarded by the county in August.

G. **Reston State of the Environment Report-Board Recommendations-Continued**

The committee focused on the handout-XII. RASER 2017 Report Card & 2018 Recommendations

D. Wastewater-Carl will send language to Sue to go to the Board.

E. Drinking Water- We are in good shape in the category

V. Vegetation-
   A. Urban Forests-
      Continue initiatives to emphasize deer management and removal of invasive plant species. Increase outreach and communication on the importance of snags for wildlife habitat. Use social media.
   B. Meadows-
      Combine small patches of meadows across properties to create contiguous, larger patches of meadow.
      Develop a rating system for our meadows.

The RASER recommendations will be discussed at the July meeting starting with Wetlands.

H. **Climate Change-Definition, Impact, Local Action, RASER**

After discussion, it was decided that Climate Change should be added to RASER. The effort will examine the nature of climate change, its potential local impacts and actions which can be taken locally to avoid, minimize and ameliorate these potential impacts. Doug, William and Emily initiate work on this topic.

I. **Litter Working Group – Update**

On May 21, the group met with one Lake Anne restauranteur, who was very enthusiastic about participating in the project, but requested time until after the Memorial weekend to respond to the information requested. Once the project is underway with this restaurateur, the group will seek participation from others at Lake Anne.

J. **Development/Redevelopment Update- Isaac Newton Square**

The group working on the analysis of this project met on May 22 and distributed the sections of the proposal for write ups. Final comments will be shared with Larry Butler to be submitted to the County and will also be shared with the P&Z Committee. It is understood that the county is creating a taskforce for developing a county plan for lighting but nothing more has been heard about this.

K. **Development/Redevelopment Update- Sunrise Valley Wetland**

On May 22, a small group composed of BOD President Katherine Baum, CEO Hank Lynch, Doug Britt, Claudia Thompson-Deahl, Sue Beffel and Irwin Flashman toured the Sunrise Valley Wetlands Park. During the visit, Ms. Baum requested that the EAC consider the implications of RA taking over the management of the wetlands or acquiring the site. Irwin, Koaw and Claudia offered to work on this.

L. **RA Budget Cycle**

Member suggestions are being accepted. The budget will be prepared in September, due in June 4, 2019

Environmental Advisory Committee
October.

M. Water Quality Issues- Lakes, Boats, Docks Study
The issue of lake water quality was raised in the report from the Working Group on Lakes Boats and Docks and it was suggested that the matter be referred to the EAC for further recommendations. The issues were covered in the RASER report and the conclusions and recommendations of the report will be referred to the Board.

N. Biophilic Cities Rack Card
We discussed a way to leverage the use of social media. Questions and ways to use this-Who is doing this and how to track who is taking the pledge. Can we get an overall count? Back to school night, Google Forum, Farmers Market, use a multi-faceted approach.

O. Announcements, Upcoming Activities & Meetings
There is a meeting of the Washington Area Citizen Science Network on June 18th at the Smithsonian. There was a short discussion on the latest bee kill.

III. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

P. Adjourn
Sue moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10. Irwin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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