Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting Minutes
1/16/20

PRESENT Chair Sue Beffel; Vice-chair Irwin Flashman; Committee Members: Doug Britt, Surekha Sridhar, Karen Sughrue, William Pegues, Jon Damm, Eiman Hajabbassi (via phone); Staff Liaisons: Katie Shaw, Claudia Thompson-Deahl

ABSENT WITH CAUSE Committee Members: Emily Cox, Emily Vorek, Carl Mitchell, Nancy Malesic, Sally Kidd, Lois Phemister; Board Liaisons: Eric Carr, Tom Mulkerin

GUESTS Michael Hannan, 1800 Jonathan Way #424; Adam Drici, 12839 Tournament Drive

I. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

A. Call to Order & Opening Remarks
   The meeting was called to order at 6:52 p.m., and a quorum was established.

   Visitors were welcomed and encouraged to consider joining the committee. The committee was reminded that a new Chair/Vice-chair will be needed in April of 2020.

B. Adoption of Agenda
   Doug moved to adopt the January 16, 2020 agenda. Surekha seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Adoption of Minutes
   Irwin moved to adopt the minutes of the December 3, 2019 meeting. Karen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Member Comments
   None.

II. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

E. Development/Redevelopment Working Group- Updates & Environmental Considerations Review
   The working group did not make a report. The next meeting will be January 23.

The RASER Report Card and Recommendations were approved by the RA Board on December 19. By the end of the first quarter, the Board would like the EAC to draft policy statements for 11 of the recommendations that would require Board action.

The Climate Change Report was presented and approved by the RA Board on December 19. A communication plan is needed to publicize the report and get it online. Doug will present the report to an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute class on January 27.

The Biophilic Pledge rack card has been printed and is available online. People will take the pledge via an online survey so that responses can be tracked. Contact information will be collected for a one-time check-in with participants. The Biophilic Cities Network loved the pledge idea. Other cities may adopt the idea. An environmental psychologist from University of Virginia may be available to help analyze the results as a way of measuring behavioral change. A Biophilic Cities Workshop is being organized with Dr. Tim Beatley.

The working group has prepared a draft communications plan for the pledge effort and would like RA Communications Department assistance in publicizing it through the press and social media. Volunteers will be recruited to table at events.

The committee reviewed an article by the National Recreation and Parks Association which highlighted park trends for 2020 such as increased video surveillance, increased drone use, decreased use of glyphosates, increased use of parks and open space as wellness hubs, and increased investment in parkland and tree canopy to reduce the heat island effect and buffer communities from the impacts of climate change. These topics may be good to address in the next full RASER Report.

G. Litter Working Group Update

There are three restaurants at Lake Anne Plaza interested in reducing their single use plastic use. A bill has been introduced in the Virginia Senate to collect a five-cent tax on plastic bags. The funds would be used to help the Chesapeake Bay. The next meeting will be January 22.

H. Pathway Lighting Hunters Woods: Working Group Progress

A revised draft of the position paper on the proposed pathway lighting project near the Hunters Woods Shopping Center will be available at the next EAC meeting. It will include some general considerations for lighting projects in Reston. The group is not satisfied with the current proposal.

I. Fairfax County Glass Recycling Update

Fairfax County is interested in expanding its glass recycling program. It is looking for a site to place a purple collection bin in north Reston.

J. Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP)

CECAP is a new initiative of Fairfax County, which has created a new County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination. Over the next 18-21 months, actions and strategies
related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and climate mitigation will be developed. A community engagement guide and final report will be created.

The first meeting of the County’s Energy and Climate Task Force will be next week. It involves many partners, offices and contractors. The task force will include a liaison from each of the District’s focus groups. Emily C. and Doug are serving on the Huntermill District Focus Group. Doug is the liaison to the task force. They will share information with the EAC. Members are encouraged to read more about the initiative on the County’s website.

K. Announcements, Upcoming Activities & Meetings
Four seats on the RA Board are up for election in 2020. Candidate applications are due January 24.

The Walker Nature Center’s 2020 Environmental Film Series, in partnership with Friends of Reston, kicks off with a screening of Yasuni Man on Jan. 24.

The Nature Center will host the Audubon Photography Awards Show exhibition February 5-26. An Open House in partnership with Audubon Society of Northern Virginia will be February 9. A collection of short documentaries about birds will be screened on February 21. Attendees will be invited to view the photographs during these events.

The All Gardeners Meeting for garden plot renters will be February 8.

Plant NoVa Natives will present a “Grow More, Mow Less” workshop on March 6.

Habitat Heroes projects will start in March.

The March EAC meeting will be rescheduled so that it does not occur on Virginia Primary Elections night.

III. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

L. Adjourn
Irwin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. Doug seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Shaw, Staff Liaison

January 16, 2020
Environmental Advisory Committee