Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting Minutes
12/3/19

PRESENT Chair Sue Beffel; Vice-chair Irwin Flashman; Committee Members: Doug Britt, Lois Phemister, Emily Cox, Emily Vorek, Surekha Sridhar, Karen Sughrue, William Pegues, Carl Mitchell, Eiman Hajabbasi, Jon Damm (arrived 6:58 p.m.); Board Liaison: Tom Mulkerin; Staff Liaison: Katie Shaw

ABSENT WITH CAUSE Committee Members: Nancy Malesic, Sally Kidd; Board Liaison: Eric Carr; Staff Liaison: Claudia Thompson-Deahl

GUESTS Alyson MacLatchy, 1671 Fieldthorn Dr.; Yanni Chryssomitis, 11629 Hunters Green Ct.; Jim O’Leary, 12170 Abington Hall Place; Melissa Gildea, 11928 Escalante Ct.

I. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

A. Call to Order & Opening Remarks
The meeting was called to order at 6:37 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 2020. The committee thanked Lois for her service as she has reached the end of her term and will not be seeking another term on the EAC.

B. Adoption of Agenda
Carl moved to adopt the December 3, 2019 agenda. Emily C. seconded the motion. There was a request to amend the agenda by adding item K, regarding the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee. Doug made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Karen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Adoption of Minutes
Karen moved to adopt the minutes of the November 7, 2019 meeting. Doug seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Member Comments
Guests introduced themselves. Yanni is President of Hunters Green Cluster, which is interested in composting and electric car charging.
Alyson is interested in environmental education, food waste issues and promoting composting in the community.

Jim is retired from the Environmental Protection Agency with an interest in a variety of environmental issues and the RASER report.

Lois is concerned about noise pollution from leaf blowers and their effects on wildlife as well as soil and tree conservation.

Melissa commented that increased tree protection is needed especially on cluster property and along RA pathways. Trees have been damaged during maintenance activities. Policies that are consistent with natural area preservation are needed.

(Jon arrived.)

II. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

E. Development/Redevelopment Working Group Updates & Environmental Considerations Review
The working group will watch for the INOVA proposal at Reston Town Center North. This project will affect the homeless shelter, library and government center. The EAC is concerned about the forested area and the impact of the new grid of streets.

The next meeting will be on Dec. 4. The working group will review the Environmental Considerations document.

The RASER Report Card was presented to the RA Board Operations Committee (BOC). The Report Card and 72 recommendations will be presented to the full RA Board on December 19.

The revised Climate Change Report was also presented to the BOC and will be on the full Board meeting agenda on December 19.

Ten recommendations would require new Board policies. Volunteers are needed to draft sample policies to deliver to the Board before its March meeting.

Biophilic Pledge cards are being printed. The pledge and a related survey will also be available online. The working group will meet on January 6 to discuss the launch of these materials to the community.

G. Litter Working Group Update
The last meeting was postponed. A new date is needed. The committee discussed how the cost of reducing single use plastics can be a hardship on small businesses. There may be an opportunity to connect with corporate partners. The EAC would like to spread word of businesses that are doing good things to reduce single plastics waste.
H. Pathway Lighting Hunters Woods: Working Group Progress
The committee reviewed its draft position paper on the proposed pathway lighting project near the Hunters Woods Shopping Center. There is concern that the proposed lights are roadway lights, inappropriate for pedestrians walking on a pathway in a woodland area. If lights are needed, there should be a very strategic lighting plan, focused on ground illumination as well as a multi-disciplinary approach that includes things such as passive surveillance methods or perhaps re-routing of the pathway.

There was also a discussion about the color of the light and the effects on humans and wildlife, including insects. Further comments and concerns are welcome. Another draft of the paper will be written.

The Board has carried over funds to engage a Lighting Specialist to the 2020 budget. The EAC would like to see a Request for Proposal sent to multiple lighting consultants.

I. Status of Examination of Sunrise Valley Wetlands
RA counsel is attempting to gain detailed ownership information about the listed owner, Reston Arboretum, LLC.

J. Fairfax County Glass Recycling Update
Fairfax County no longer accepts glass in mixed recycling containers. Glass must be recycled separately in purple bins. There is one purple bin at the Reston Parkway Park and Ride. The public is encouraged to contact the Fairfax County Solid Waste Department to ask for more purple bins in Reston. RA has put in a request.

K. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC)
PRAC has a working group looking at increasing the use of the lakes for recreational purposes. There is a concern about a lack of access and parking for passive uses, fishing and points of entry for hand carried boats. Currently, areas near the waters edge and along the bases of the dams are heavily vegetated. Some small fishing platforms may be possible. Waterfront cluster and condo associations have expressed trespassing concerns.

There is also interest in increased promotion of the lakes as part of the RA brand. If a position paper is drafted by PRAC, the EAC would like to review and comment on it.

L. Announcements, Upcoming Activities & Meetings
Giving Tuesday is on December 3. Friends of Reston (FOR) gratefully receives donations for environmental education and the Reston Tree Fund as well as watershed and habitat restoration projects. FOR celebrated its 20th anniversary as a 501c3.

The community is invited to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of Nature House at the Walker Nature Center’s Holiday Open House on December 8.

The Brand Consultancy report will be presented to the Board on December 4.
The application deadline for enrollment in the Fairfax Master Naturalist spring training is December 28.

III. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

M. Adjourn

Carl moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Doug seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Shaw, Staff Liaison