

EGT Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024 6:30 PM

DRAFT

Attendees: Christi Marshall, Kennan Flanagan, Peg Friese, Mary Krueger, Christine McCormick, Kimberly Schaffer, Tony Natale, Reese Corso and Natalie Golden (Youth Advisors), Barbara Emery (Board Liaison)

1. Call to Order 6:30 PM by Christi Marshall
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mary Krueger
3. Moment of Silence was led by Mary Krueger
4. No one was recording the meeting.
5. Introduction of members and visitors. Each attendee provided an introduction and description of their interest in ESAC.
5. Election of officers. Christi Marshall proposed the following slate of Council Officers: Vice Chair- Christine McCormick, Secretary- Tony Natale, Treasurer- Mary Krueger. The proposal was seconded by Mary Krueger and unanimously passed.
6. Chair's Report. Christi Marshall provided a history of ESAC. It began as a SAC Committee. SAC's operate independently and EAC's are covered by the state. An EG ordinance was passed 2 ½ years ago to create the ESAC a combination of the two. As a Council, committees may be established of less than 4 voting members to address specific projects. If there are more than 4 members, a Council quorum is established, and the meeting must be open to the public. Current committees include the Media Committee, Native Landscape Committee, and a Program Committee needs to be established. Each committee will report on activities at Council meetings. There can also be short-term committees, e.g., the committee for developing a grant for recycling bins. There is also interest in developing a fund-raising committee and will need members.
7. Board Liaison Report. Barbara Emery reported on the Board of Supervisors meeting discussion of ESAC. Christi Marshall was elected to Chair ESAC for 2024. Also discussed plans for an upcoming Veterans Day Event that ESAC could participate in. It will be held on Veterans Day, November 11. There will also be a Family Camp Out hosted by Parks & Recreation. Events may be an opportunity for recycling bins to be placed in the EG Park.
8. Treasurer's Report. No detailed report was provided as the responsibility was just given to Mary Krueger. Only a small amount of about \$100 was recently spent on materials to support the plastic bag resolution.
9. Media Report. Mary Krueger provided an update. The EG ESAC Facebook page has 54 followers. She would like to see more to build a following. She requested additional volunteers for the committee and comments. WC East HS uses Instagram and ESAC also has an Instagram page. A QR code may help to get more people to go to the pages. It could be used on any materials that are given to people. It may be an

opportunity to promote recycling. We need to reach out to apartment complexes to promote recycling. A motion was made by Christi Marshall and seconded by Mary Krueger to form a Multi-Family Dwelling Committee to address this issue. It passed unanimously.

10. Native Plant Committee. Peg Fries provided an update on projects. Plants were installed near the EGT sign, however, some have died during the winter. A new project is to create a native plant garden behind the parking lot in front of the Public Works Building. Peg has been working on this garden plan and hopes to obtain a grant to support the cost. It will be educational for EG residents and students. The garden will be done in phases and phase 1 would require about 100 plugs which are less expensive and could be covered under the grant. She is working with Xerces on obtaining the plugs. She will need assistance in planting, watering, and monitoring and can get some help through Master Gardeners. Mark Miller will help by digging up the area and will provide woodchips for a walking path through the garden. Peg made a motion to establish this committee and it was seconded by Mary Krueger. It passed unanimously. Tony Natale is a member along with Peg Friese.

11. An open discussion was led by Christi Marshall on the recently passed Board resolution on plastic bags and straws. Students had helped by designing signs that would be offered to relevant businesses to place on retail windows within the township to encourage shoppers to bring their own reusable bags. A draft letter to accompany the signs was provided for Council member input. There are about 35 businesses impacted by this resolution and there is expected to be some resistance from some of the businesses. Kennan Flanigan raised the question of measurement of results and felt that the businesses should be asked to measure the impact of the resolution. The results would help to develop a culture of using reusable bags. Christi Marshall indicated that she and Michelle Truitt will visit with the manager of Giant (the largest business impacted by the resolution). The letter will need to be approved by the Council and possibly by the Board and Derek Davis prior to distribution. Christi Marshall made a motion for the letter to be approved subject to edit and accompany the window sign. Mary Krueger seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Other comments regarding the resolution included providing people with a small reusable bag to remind them to continue this practice. Sample bags designed by WCE students were provided to members. A letter explaining the resolution can go with the bags. Information also needs to go onto the EGT website regarding the resolution.

12. Christi Marshall led discussion of establishing a Program Committee. ESAC has participated in a number of programs in the past including Keep EG Beautiful Day, Sustainability Expo, Community Day, Art Fair, Pumpkin Festival, and Trick or Treat. Additionally, there are others to be considered: Community Yard Sale Day, Camp Out Day, and Veterans Day. It was felt that of these, the most important were Keep EG Beautiful Day, Community Day, Pumpkin Festival, Camp Out, and Veterans Day. Mary Krueger made a motion to address these major events and it was seconded by Peg Friese. It passed unanimously.

13. Christi Marshall informed the Council that we will need to obtain clearances for several members under the PA Child Protection Act. Peg Friese, Mary Krueger, and Tony Natale have active clearances. Tony Natale will take the lead on assisting in the process and coordinate with Jason Lang. The township will cover any expenses relating to the clearances.

14. There were no Public Comments.

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15. Adjourned Meeting: Motion by Kim Schaffer and Seconded by Peg Fiese, unanimously approved at 8:22 PM.