

BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 13, 2023
REGULAR MEETING

The Public Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Norwood was held via Zoom on the above date.

Mr. Maljevic stated that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of the Board:

Ms. Brielle Olshan	Present
Ms. Karin Rosenthal	Absent
Mr. Walter Deptuch	Present
Mr. Phil Maljevic	Present
Ms. Barbara Vanderbeck	Present
Mr. Kamal Hoon	Present
Mr. Jim Elling	Absent
Ms. Brigitha Tray	Absent
Ms. Siddhi Samant	Absent

Also Present:

Lindsay Volpitta, Commission Secretary

Mr. Deptuch made a motion to approve the May 9, 2023, Environmental Commission meeting minutes. Ms. Olshan seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed, with the exception of Mr. Hoon who abstained.

Community Garden Update

Mr. Maljevic advised the Commission that there is an abundance of lettuce in the community plots, and everyone is welcome to have some. He also informed the Commission that rabbits have found a way into the garden. The DPW is working with the Garden Committee to resolve the issue, possibly by wrapping chicken wire around the fence for a more secure area. Mr. Maljevic also notified the Commission that the next community garden day will be on June 24th. Ms. Olshan shared that after the Foxhill clean up on June 3rd, they had an informal community garden with the girl scouts and some other community members that volunteered for the cleanup.

Tree Ordinance Update

Mr. Maljevic advised the Commission that they have received feedback on the proposed ordinance from Councilmembers and the next step is to compile all the questions and comments received and refine the ordinance to address their concerns.

Ms. Olshan stated that this meeting was scheduled to be a working meeting to revise the tree ordinance. Due to the fact that Ms. Olshan and Ms. Rosenthal, two members heavily involved in the ordinance, were physically not in attendance this matter will be listed on the next agenda.

EV Charging Stations

Mr. Maljevic informed the Commission that a second quote was received from EV Connect and is in the review process. Mr. Hoon asked where the charging stations will be placed. Mr. Maljevic advised that the original location was closer to Borough Hall and the playground. That has since changed and the new location will be back the snack stand. Ms. Vanderbeck asked how many spots will be installed. Ms. Olshan stated that the quotes that have been received are for two (2) and (4) spots. Mr. Maljevic said they are looking to have most of the project, if not all, funded by grants. Mr. Hoon asked in the Borough will be charging a fee for the use of the charging station. Mr. Maljevic said the Borough can charge a fee but would most likely not collect much revenue. Ms. Olshan advised that the Borough will set the cost once the charging stations are installed and they could possibly pay for themselves over a few years.

Light Pollution

Mr. Maljevic advised this was for informational purposes only and there are no action items pending.

Community Events

Mr. Maljevic said that the Foxhill clean up was a great success. The volunteers filled ten (10) plus bags of garbage. Mr. Maljevic suggested taking a second pass through the woods as there was still more garbage to be collected. It was noted by Mr. Maljevic that the garbage bags were huge and once filled became very heavy. A wagon has been requested for use to cart the bags to the dumpster or to get heavy duty smaller bags. Mr. Deptuch suggested looking into recycled plastic bags.

Social Media

Council President Hausmann had previously spoken to Mr. Maljevic and Ms. Volpitta advising them to alert the Commission that all events should be posted on social media. Not only the Environmental Commissions Facebook page, also pages in the surrounding area. Ms. Olshan and Mrs. Volpitta will connect to discuss Facebook access.

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Ms. Vanderbeck made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mr. Deptuch seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

There was no one in the public who wished to speak.

Ms. Olshan made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Mr. Deptuch seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

Ms. Olshan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Deptuch seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

Mr. Maljevic thanked the Commission and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta, Commission Secretary