

BOROUGH OF NORWOOD  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
February 6, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING

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

Ms. Olshan 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    | Present |
| Mr. Walter Deptuch     | Absent  |
| Mr. Phil Maljevic      | Present |
| Ms. Barbara Vanderbeck | Present |
| Mr. Kamal Hoon         | Absent  |
| Mr. Jim Elling         | Absent  |
| Ms. Redding            | Present |
| Ms. Kessler            | Present |

Also Present:

Councilwoman Annie Hausmann  
Lindsay Volpitta, Commission Secretary

Ms. Vanderbeck made a motion to approve the December 5, 2023, Environmental Commission meeting minutes. Ms. Rosenthal seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

Mr. Maljevic made a motion to approve the January 9, 2024, Environmental Commission meeting minutes. Ms. Vanderbeck seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

Community Events

Ms. Rosenthal said the Skunk Hollow hike with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission was fun and informative. There were not many Norwood residents present for the hike. The Commission would like to have the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission give an informational hike through the area of the Boy Scout camp where

Page Two

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2024

the Commission holds its weekly hikes. In order for this to occur, a donation must be made to the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission.

Ms. Volpitta informed the Commission that a member of Bracco Farms will be speaking in Washington Township, giving a presentation on backyard gardening, and asked if this were something the Commission would like to host in Norwood. Ms. Olshan and the Commission members responded favorably.

Councilwoman Hausmann asked if the hikes could be moved back to a 10:30am start time. The Commission unanimously agreed. Councilwoman Hausmann will be present to lead all hikes from February 11<sup>th</sup> to March 10<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a community event at the garden on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 11:30am, to begin the garden plot preparations for the 2024 growing season.

A community clean up has been scheduled for Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30am-1:30pm. The staging area will be the Borough Hall parking lot and the cleanup area will be the railroad tracks. There will be pizza provided at the community center at the conclusion of the cleanup. Community service hours will also be approved for this event.

#### Forest Ecology Report

Ms. Olshan informed the Commission that in order to move forward with the forest study, Mayor and Council approval is needed. Councilwoman Hausmann asked if there was a cost to the study. Ms. Olshan replied that the cost is about \$6,500.00. Ms. Olshan made a motion to ask Councilwoman Hausmann to request approval from the governing body to participate in the forest ecology study. Mr. Maljevic seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

#### 2024 Budget & Grants

Councilwoman Hausmann will contact the grant writer to find appropriate grants that will help the Commission achieve its goals.

#### Planning Board Update

Ms. Volpitta informed the Commission that there are no new Planning Board applications.

#### Council Liaison Report

Councilwoman Hausmann advised the Commission that the rabies clinic was held last week and asks that all events involving public health and wellness be shared with all agencies involved as it would be better promoted on social media.

Page Three

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2023

Councilwoman Hausmann also informed the Commission that the construction of the playground will begin soon, and that due to grants received in the amount of \$250,000.00 the Borough will be able to have the poured rubber surface installed in the playground.

Councilwoman Hausmann said there has already been money approved for the expansion of the garden and would like to see that project begin soon so it is ready for the spring. She would like to meet with Ms. Olshan and Ms. Rosenthal to go over the details.

Public Comment

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

There was no one on Zoom who wished to speak.

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

Ms. Rosenthal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Vanderbeck seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed.

Ms. Olshan thanked the Commission and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta, Commission Secretary