

BOROUGH OF NORWOOD
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 9, 2023
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	Present
Mr. Phil Maljevic	Present
Ms. Barbara Vanderbeck	Present
Mr. Kamal Hoon	Absent
Mr. Jim Elling	Present
Ms. Brigitha Tray	Absent
Ms. Siddhi Samant	Absent

Also Present:

Council President Annie Hausmann
Lindsay Volpitta, Commission Secretary

Mr. Maljevic made a motion to approve the March 1, 2023, Environmental Commission meeting minutes. Ms. Rosenthal seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously agreed, with the exception of Mr. Deptuch and Mr. Elling who abstained.

Community Garden Update

Ms. Rosenthal advised the Commission that the garden looks amazing, and they are ready for the next step of distributing the garden rules to the members. There are a few beds that need to be weeded and those members need to be notified. The community beds also need to be planted.

Ms. Olshan stated that the Valley Program has started growing basil, peppers, tomatoes, and flowers for the community garden and she will coordinate a time to receive those to be planted in the community beds.

Tree Ordinance

Ms. Olshan said she would like to keep the tree ordinance on the agenda but there was nothing to discuss at this meeting. Mr. Deptuch suggested looking at the ordinance during the next meeting and reviewing what the governing body had issue with. Council President Hausmann said she will discuss this at the Mayor and Council meeting on Thursday as part of her committee report.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Mr. Maljevic stated he did not have an opportunity to secure a second quote. Council President Hausmann suggested the Commission Secretary contact the vendor. Mr. Maljevic will forward the information to Ms. Volpitta who will secure the quote for the charging station. Mr. Deptuch advised the grant writer be involved in the process, to which Council President Hausmann responded that the grant writer is aware and working on three (3) possible grants for this project.

Light Pollution

Ms. Olshan gave the Commission a brief overview of light pollution and the negative impacts it has on the ecosystem, animals, and humans. She would like to find out what the light pollution is in the borough and if possible, find ways to mitigate it. Mr. Deptuch informed the Commission that the construction code has guidelines on lumens and the angle of light, as well as other lighting restrictions that must be followed.

Townwide Cleanup

Ms. Olshan advised the Commission that in the past there has been interest from residents regarding community cleanups and there are areas in the borough that could benefit from a cleanup. Council President Hausmann suggested making an events calendar and going east to west from Broadway choosing the sites that need the assistance. The Commission agreed to schedule four (4) cleanups this year and reevaluate each year. Council President Hausmann said this would be a great opportunity for the scouts to be involved in. Mr. Maljevic suggested four (4) different locations; the corner of Piermont Road and Broadway, Foxhill woods, middle of Broadway, and the east side of town.

Arbor Day Update

Ms. Rosenthal said Arbor Day at the public school was a great success. It was attended by EC members Olshan and Rosenthal, as well as Council President Hausmann and Mayor Barsa. The children had fun answering questions about the importance of trees and planting marigolds. Each child brought home a sapling to plant.

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

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

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

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

Ms. Olshan thanked the Commission and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta, Commission Secretary