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# West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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## MEETING MINUTES

November 27, 2023

### Members Present

Chairperson Patrick Kaag, Ryan Lineaweaver, Nicole Weik, Samantha Kaag Associate Member Christine Matthews, and Associate Member Ty Gardner

### Call to Order

Mr. Kaag called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Lineaweaver and seconded by Ms. Kaag to approve the minutes of August 28, 2023. Motion carried.

### EAC Member Goals Update

Ms. Matthews stated that since work is being done at the start of the Schuylkill River Trail that she is putting her project on hold for now. Ms. Weik mentioned that work has started on the Palmer memorial garden. She is also mentioned that she is still working on gathering some more information for a flyer which will encourage local restaurants to use less plastic. Mr. Lineaweaver stated that his idea for composting food waste from the local restaurants will no longer work as there is not enough waste generated from the local restaurants. Ms. Kaag stated that she is working on donation letters for the community garden to get supplies. Mr. Gardner is working on a veteran's memorial pollinator garden. He mentioned that he is working with Newcastle Lawn and Landscaping to get a layout made for the garden.

### Palmer Memorial Garden Update

Mr. Kaag stated that work has begun on the garden. He also mentioned that some branches have been falling on the garden from a dead tree and he is looking into getting that tree removed. Mr. Lineaweaver shared that the pencil hollies and raised planters for the garden were being delivered later that week. Mr. Kaag stated that the plan is to have a dedication ceremony for the garden in March 2024.

### Free Market Update

Mr. Kaag talked to the Buy Nothing group and they stated that they liked the idea of having the free market on Earth Day weekend. Mr. Kaag stated that they are also looking into doing another free market in January in the fire company training room. Ms. Kaag stated that she did not think the fire company was a good location as she was afraid people might think items in the training room were part of the event. Mr. Lineaweaver mentioned that the event in January would probably be a big draw for parents who would like to clear out extra toys and clothes that no longer fit.

Mr. Kaag stated that we are going to combine the Earth Day cleanup and the Spring Free Market. Motion was made by Ms. Weik and seconded by Mr. Lineaweaver. Motion passed. Ms. Kaag suggested that the Post Holiday Free Market be on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2024 from 10am-2pm. Motion made by Ms. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Weik. Motion passed. Ms. Matthews asked how this event will be advertised. Ms. Kaag stated that it will be

advertised on social media and if this event continues to be popular it will be placed in the borough magazine going forward. Mr. Kaag stated that his goal is to have the Buy Nothing Group eventually take this idea over.

#### **Fall Cleanup Update**

Mr. Kaag stated that the clover leaf was very clean since a new contractor has started mowing and cleaning the area regularly. He mentioned that just under 200lbs of trash was collected.

#### **TPS Pocket Park**

A resident brought an idea to the borough of closing down a small section of the street on Pine Street to continue the park that is already there. Mr. Kaag stated that the current sidewalk there is in really bad shape and in order to fix it a tree would need to be removed. He mentioned that he is going to check with public works to see if anything runs underneath that road and if not the idea to continue the park and remove the road could be possible. Currently a lot of kids play in that area, and it is causing a safety concern which this would be alleviate. This idea would also help increase the green space in the borough.

#### **Veteran's Memorial Pollinator Garden**

Mr. Gardner stated that a concerned citizen had brought up that the memorial was being neglected. Mr. Gardner had the idea to turn it into a more productive green space and make it into a pollinator garden. Mr. Gardner mentioned that he reached out to Tyler Weisman at Newcastle Lawn and Landscaping to see what resources they could provide. Ms. Kaag suggested moving the memorial be moved over to the museum side of the road because it would get more foot traffic and also the bees wouldn't bother people who go to the pool. Mr. Kaag suggested having a conversation with the museum staff about having it moved and possibly having their staff help take care of the garden portion.

#### **MS4 Monthly Update**

Mr. Kaag brought up that dyed mulch is not good for the environment and should be avoided. Ms. Kaag informed everyone that public works has created their own mulch with local trees that borough residents can utilize.

#### **Global Update**

Mr. Kaag shared that MIT is currently working on making concrete supercapacitors which would store battery energy. This would allow people to have back up batteries systems built into their homes.

#### **Open Spot on EAC**

Ms. Weik made the motion to amend the agenda to appoint Ty Gardner to a full member of the EAC upon Jim Keller's resignation. Seconded by Mr. Lineaweaver. Motion passed. Ms. Weik made a motion to appoint Ty Gardner as a full member of the EAC upon Jim Keller's resignation. Seconded by Mr. Lineaweaver. Motion passed.

#### **Adjournment**

Moved by Ms. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Lineaweaver to adjourn the meeting at 6:46p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicole Weik  
EAC Member