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# West Reading Environmental Advisory Council

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## MEETING MINUTES

April 22, 2024

### Members Present

Chairperson Patrick Kaag, Nicole Weik, Samantha Kaag, Ty Gardner, Bethany Bower

### Visitors

Melissa Heiser, Resident

Paul Heiser, Resident

Nathalie Kulesa, Resident

### Call to Order

Mr. Kaag called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Gardner and seconded by Ms. Bower to approve the minutes of February 26, 2024. Motion carried.

### Public Comment

Ms. Kulesa asked if there would be any discussion about the "Pocket Park" idea. Mr. Kaag stated that it was not on the agenda and more information is being gathered before it will be discussed.

Ms. Kulesa asked about the drop off of toxic/hazardous waste and if the borough could have something where residents could drop it off and the borough could take care of it in bulk. Mr. Heiser asked about how to handle getting rid of leftover building supplies. Mr. Kaag stated that he would look into both of these questions and let the residents know.

Ms. Kulesa stated that some residents aren't placing their trash bags into containers. Mr. Kaag stated that the trash collectors aren't supposed to take trash that isn't in a container. Ms. Kulesa also stated that some residents are leaving their trash cans in the alley. Mr. Kaag stated that they will keep an eye on the area for code violations.

### Earth Day Clean Up / Free Market

Mr. Kaag stated that a lot of people like the combination of these two events. Residents were able to drop off items and then help with the clean up. Ms. Weik stated that she mostly found plastic water bottles and food wrappers to be picked up. Ms. Weik stated that there are no trash cans near the basketball and pickle ball courts that aren't inside the courts which can be an issue. Mr. Gardner mentioned that this can lead to the dog waste containers being used for trash and then overflowing. Mr. Kaag stated that he will request more trash cans be added around the park. Mr. Kaag shared that he went down to the clover leaf and it wasn't as much trash since the new person mowing down there has been cleaning up the trash as well. Mr. Kaag mentioned that in the future we are going to try and coordinate with Reading to clean up both sides of the clover leaf.

Mr. Kaag asked if anyone had more thoughts or ideas for this combined event in the future. Ms. Weik asked if

there was a lot of items left after the free market was over. Mr. Kaag stated that there was almost nothing left when the event ended. Ms. Bower stated that if we continue to do the events on Sundays then Community Aid will be unable to pick up any leftover items since they are closed. Mr. Kaag suggested maybe they could leave a trailer that we could put the items in and then they could pick it up the next day. Ms. Weik mentioned that we could also have someone take the items to the borough to have them arrange pickup there on Mondays. Ms. Weik suggested that we see if we can get grabbers donated for the next clean up.

### **Palmer Memorial Garden Update**

Mr. Kaag reminded everyone to try and keep an eye on the garden and make sure that it remains clean of debris. Mr. Gardner suggested that we create an even to plant the remaining flowers. Ms. Kaag stated that one of the families has already offered to plant these flowers. Ms. Kaag is going to reach out and see if there is a timeline the family is thinking about.

### **Community Garden**

Mr. Kaag mentioned that he got a lot of positive feedback about moving the shed that is currently located at the Public Works garage. Public Works has mentioned that this will free up a lot of space for them. Mr. Kaag stated that he will let all the EAC members know when he will be going to pick a location for the shed. He also mentioned that he would like to show the members a way to build raised beds for the garden.

### **Delaney Memorial**

Mr. Kaag mentioned that the memorial that is located in Delaney Circle will need to be moved as it is not a safe area to visit. The new potential spot will be in front of the West Reading Pool and a garden will be incorporated. Mr. Kaag asked what the EAC members thoughts are on the new location. Mr. Gardner shared that he has put together a map of the different memorials in the area. He stated that his idea is to have it become a trail system that you could walk within the borough. Ms. Weik asked if this location would be to close to the potential veteran's memorial. Mr. Gardner stated that it will be moved closer to the baseball field. He mentioned that this would be a more appropriate spot for the veteran's memorial. Ms. Kaag shared that all these items are being funded outside the borough. Ms. Bower asked if Delaney's family was asked about the location. Ms. Kaag stated that they were consulted.

### **MS4 Monthly Update**

Mr. Kaag shared how important rain gardens are for managing storm water. They act as natural filters and as a water catch.

### **Global Update**

Mr. Kaag shared that polyfluoroalkyl substances were just added to the superfund hazardous chemicals list. These chemicals are used frequently in manufacturing and plastics.

### **Final Comments**

Ms. Kaag reminded everyone that this time of year there are a lot of grant opportunities. She suggested that at the next meeting this be added to the agenda.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Mr. Gardner and seconded by Ms. Weik to adjourn the meeting at 6:47p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicole Weik  
EAC Member