

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** for June 2022 was held tonight via web-conference, Commissioner Ann L. Rappoport presiding. Present were Commissioners Brockington, Areman, Pransky, Holland, and Zygmund-Felt. Also present was Ex-Officio member Norris.

Staff present via web-conference were: Robert A. Zienkowski, Township Manager; Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; Danielle Pearson, Director of Fiscal Affairs; Allen Brown, Property Maintenance Supervisor; Lauren Walter, Special Projects Coordinator; John Piepsy, Director of Parks and Recreation; Joe Stuckert, Street Light and Traffic Signal Superintendent, and Bo Coyle, Interim Public Works Superintendent.

Ms. Rappoport called the meeting to order at 8:31 p.m.

1. Presentations

a. Environmental Advisory Council – Plastic Bag Ban Legislation Discussion

Greta Bunin, Sidney Kahn and Jeffrey Plaut represented the Cheltenham Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). Ms. Bunin made a presentation regarding single-use plastic bag legislation (see attached).

Jeffrey Plaut said the EAC has spoken with staff and said it came away with the understanding that staff supports a reduction in litter, which is a big problem in the Township, and noted that staff wanted to make sure there is enough time to prepare businesses and the public for single-use plastic bag legislation.

Mr. Zienkowski confirmed that this is a great opportunity for the Township, particularly in reducing plastic bag waste that is found in Township trees, waterways, open spaces and other properties. Concerning enforcement, he said his Code Enforcement staff will be on top of this. Mr. Lynch said this will be part of annual business inspections performed by the Codes Department and it will investigate complaints from residents.

Mr. Zygmund-Felt noted several challenges – educating residents and businesses; making sure the Township is consistently putting out information to raise awareness; promotion and enforcement of this program.

Mr. Holland asked if there is any documentation on this program reducing litter. Ms. Bunin said she has seen reports of a reduction in plastic bag litter of 60-80 percent.

Mr. Pransky asked about the list of exemptions and whether it can be amended. Ms. Bunin said that the list proposed is pretty standard; however, there is some variation from community to community.

Ms. Bunin said that other communities have been asked about the added cost of this program to disadvantaged populations, but that there was a consensus in other areas not to single out populations and to make it consistent across a community.

Wes Powers asked what the effect would be on the trash stream if the Township implemented the fee without implementing the ban. Ms. Bunin said she will look into this. Mr. Powers noted that Europe has not outright banned plastic bags; rather, it has required patrons to pay for each bag they use.

Ms. Campbell noted that people with disabilities who utilize delivery services may not be able to give the service a reusable bag, so they would be required to pay for the use of the bags, putting them at a cost disadvantage.

Mr. Norris noted that Save-a-Lot in Melrose Shopping Center on Cheltenham Avenue charges a nickel if you do not bring your own bag.

Upon motion by Mr. Areman, seconded by Mr. Holland, the Committee unanimously approved authorization for staff to work with the EAC to draft a plastic bag ban ordinance for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

b. Economic Development Task Force (EDTF)

Dwight Pedro Lewis and Deb Campbell introduced a six-month pilot program for a Business District Liaison initiative. Mr. Lewis said the EDTF would like to use this program to engage businesses, provide them with information about the Township and EDTF, obtain their contact information, ask if they would be willing to participate in a video interview to promote their business on the Township's social media, and develop a relationship with the business. At the end of the six month period, the EDTF will provide the Committee with a detailed report on findings, experiences, and recommendations for moving forward. He added that if the EDTF learns something that should be addressed immediately, they will reach out to the Township Manager.

Ms. Rappoport applauded the EDTF members for their hard work to develop such a program.

Mr. Pransky noted that the Business District Liaison program has been batted back and forth for years and he applauded EDTF for developing what looks like a good retention program. Mr. Pransky also noted that the Township could use assistance in recruiting new businesses. Mr. Lewis said EDTF can help look into this; but the Business District Liaison program will be a good starting point for showing the Township can develop good relationships with businesses. Mr. Areman agreed that retention of businesses already in the Township is an important first step before the Township can really focus on recruitment.

Ms. Campbell noted that EDTF members have done a variety of *Business Spotlight* videos to promote businesses. These serve as testimonial videos for why people open businesses in the Township. She added that the Glenside commercial district is looking to hire a person for a main street manager type of role to help with promotions and organize events.

Mr. Zygmund-Felt noted that the Township should have a list of businesses that it can provide to the EDTF to help with its work. He added that Commissioners do a lot of work with businesses as they enter the Township, but they do not typically engage with existing businesses. He committed to helping with this program.

Mr. Lewis noted that the EDTF is four members short. The Committee discussed how they can recruit new members.

Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously approved the implementation of a six-month Business District Liaison program.

c. Cheltenham Township Library System Quarterly Report: Mary Kay Moran, Executive Director

Ms. Moran began by discussing the challenges with reopening the library branches at the Community Centers. She noted that the cold, wet spring made the building too cold to open right away, but the temperature inside the buildings has become more comfortable. She has also had challenges hiring staff and is waiting for air quality test results. She expects the results by the end of this week. If the report comes back that it is safe to be in the libraries, the libraries will reopen for the following hours: La Mott – Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; East Cheltenham – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and five hours on Saturday. She noted that East Cheltenham has more hours because it is larger and experiences more volume. Updates are being posted on the Library website, its e-newsletter, postcards, and

other social media. Ms. Moran said La Mott will host an outdoor story time and summer reading programs. East Cheltenham will be able to hold these programs indoors.

Ms. Moran said the Library is looking to hire an Outreach Youth Services person who will be in charge of youth programming at both community centers and will be going to the elementary schools when those libraries are closed.

Ms. Moran discussed the programs and initiatives of the Library as a whole. She noted new services, such as circulating hotspots, tripling the number of downloadable books and streaming videos due to increased demand during the pandemic. In addition, the Library will be renewing items automatically, rather than requiring residents to go online or call into the library.

The Library Board and Staff began a new strategic planning process and will be moving toward implementation shortly. The main areas of the plan include: Building Community, Enriching Lives and Ensuring the Sustainability of the Libraries.

2. The Committee reviewed the following reports for the month of May 2022:
 - a. Property Maintenance
 - b. Public Information
 - c. Parks and Recreation
 - 1) Mr. Piepsny congratulated Kelly Rebitz and Allen Brown on becoming State Certified Pesticide Applicators, and certified in Swimming Pool Chemicals.
 - 2) Discussion on Picnicking Code – Mr. Piepsny noted that the Township’s regulations on picnicking are confusing. There are no picnicking signs near pavilions and picnic tables in the parks; Chapter 94 of the Township Code requires a permit and fee in order to host a picnic in a Township park; and Chapter 201 of the Township Code provides for the ability to require a permit to reserve park facilities. He suggested ‘picnic by reservation only’ signage, which is more positive and allows people to utilize the Township’s beautiful parks as intended. The Committee was receptive to this recommendation.
 - 3) Youth Sports Agreements – Mr. Piepsny said he is working on preparing agreements with each of the sports organizations for use of the sports fields to protect both the Township and the organizations, to be renewed annually. He has been working with the Township Solicitor and will be presenting a draft to the organizations in the next week or two.
 - 4) Memorial Bench Program – Mr. Piepsny noted that the Township has many variations of benches in its parks, but would like to develop a bench program to make the style more uniform. This would coordinate with the Township’s tree donation program. When he has a completed draft, he will present to the Committee.

Dan George, Cheltenham Pickleball, said he has enjoyed working with Mr. Piepsny in his short time with the Township. On the bench proposal specifically, he said Cheltenham Pickleball has collected money to donate a bench in memory of Brian Malloy and asked to be consulted on the style.
- 5) Wall Park Playground Discussion – Mr. Piepsny said he has made inspection of the wooden playground with a company called Play by Design which specializes in maintenance and repairs of wooden playgrounds. This playground is 18 years old, with a life expectancy of 20-25 years if maintained appropriately. Unfortunately, the representative of Play by Design could not provide a quote to make repairs and updates to the playground because the foundation is too rotted. The best way to move forward is to either hire a company to perform an analysis of the playground to determine what would be needed to make the play structure safe or to have a civil engineer look at it to make a determination on its safety. In addition, playground codes have changed over the years, and this playground does not meet current codes. This will need to be remedied and further discussion will be necessary.

Mr. Pransky noted that the playground has been a concern for a number of years.

- 6) Mr. Zygmund-Felt thanked folks for participating in the Fishing Derby at Kleinheinz Pond last week and asked Mr. Piepsny to elaborate on the pools. Mr. Piepsny said Glenside Pool is up and running and pool memberships are doing well this year. Mr. Piepsny said the Fishing Derby was well-attended with volunteers on a perfect weather day, and everyone got a fish. He thanked the participants and volunteers for this event.

Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously received the above reports.

- 3. Receipt of Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Historical Commission – May 12, 2022
 - b. Twinning Committee – No May Meeting
 - c. Economic Development Task Force Meeting – May 10, 2022
 - d. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee Meeting – May 28, 2022
 - e. Civil Rights Task Force Meeting – May 3, 2022

Ms. Rappoport noted that the topic of stream naming has been discussed at multiple committees. She noted that some streams have been named, but have not been officially documented. This issue will be before the Committee in the near future.

Upon motion of Mr. Pransky, the Committee unanimously received the Committee Meeting Minutes listed above.

- 4. Receipt of Staff Meeting Minutes – May 25, 2022.

Upon motion of Mr. Pransky, the Committee unanimously received the staff meeting minutes as stated above.

- 5. Old Business – None.

- 6. New Business

a. **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Areman, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board Commissioners award a contract for Furnishing Biodegradable and Recyclable Paper Leaf and Grass Collection Bags from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 to Pabco Industries, LLC as noted below and to amend the Township Fee Schedule to increase fees to \$2.50 for three bags and \$40 for a 50-bag bundle.

2022-2023 Biodegradable Leaf Bag Bid: Pabco Industries

Municipality	Count	Price per Bag	Total Price
Abington Township	50,000	\$.698	\$34,900
Cheltenham Township	25,000	\$.698	\$17,450
Lower Moreland Township	12,000	\$.708	\$8,496
Lower Salford Township	4,000	\$.755	\$3,020
Hatboro Borough	4,000	\$.755	\$3,020
Lower Merion (no imprint)*	120,000	\$.693	\$80,760
Lower Merion (with imprint)*	120,000	\$.696	\$83,520

* Minimum order for an imprint is 72,000. A onetime set up fee of \$193 will apply.

- b. Mr. Zienkowski provided a summary of a large pool party that took place at a private property located within Curtis Arboretum. The party was attended by close to 1,000 people, and involved numerous code violations. He asked the Committee to consider hiring a police staff member to monitor social media for events like this. Lt. Farley discussed the Police Department’s pre-

planning efforts to help manage an event like this when the Police Department becomes aware of it ahead of time, such as posting no parking signs around a large event.

Mr. Areman asked the Township to consider an ordinance that imposes serious fines for these types of uses, which led to discussion on how to impose costs and regulations so as to make these types of events too onerous to hold in Cheltenham. The Committee also discussed ways to enforce and punish these uses.

Mr. Zienkowski said the Township's noise ordinance needs to be updated to make it easier to enforce.

Public Comment

Hank Unger shared his experiences as a neighbor who shares a common driveway with the subject property during the event and thanked the Police Department for its work and reassurance of neighbor security.

Brooke Welsh said she could hear the music from the party from her home a quarter mile away and made suggestions for fines and noise regulations.

Theresa Camerota noted her experiences with the party in question. She said they have had parties of smaller scale during COVID.

7. Announcements

- a. Arbor Day Foundation 2021 Tree City USA Growth Award – Ms. Elliott that the Township received the Growth Award for the first time in many years. The Township qualified for this award by bringing a certified arborist on board and for implementing a tree donation program. Ms. Elliott recognized Ms. Walter for her efforts both on the tree donation program and the Growth Award.
- b. Mr. Zygmund-Felt announced an E-Waste Recycling at Congregation Adath Jeshurun, 7763 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 on Sunday, June 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Details below:

E-WASTE Recycling Drive
Sunday, June 12
from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
CONGREGATION ADATH JESHURUN
7763 OLD YORK ROAD, ELKINS PARK, PA 19027

AJ is partnering with PAR*-Recycle Works to hold an e-waste recycling event. PAR-Recycle Works is a nonprofit electronics recycler that provides transitional employment to people returning from prison. They will ensure that every item is disposed of in a safe and environmentally conscious way.
Questions? Call 215.635.6611.
*People Advancing Reintegration

Accepted Items INCLUDE:
Printers - Mice
Keyboards
Monitors (LCD) flat-screens**
Phones - Laptops
Speakers - Motherboards
Hard drives
Power supply wire (chargers, connectors, etc.)
AV equipment
Computer batteries

Please DO NOT drop off items at AJ prior to the event!

**Most items are recycled for free, but some require a fee:
Old-style TVs and CRT monitors: \$35-\$75, cost varies by size. All conditioners, dehumidifiers, and air purifiers: \$20. Flat-screen TVs: \$20. Flat-screen monitors: \$5. Microwave ovens: \$10.
Please bring cash to check made out to PAR-Recycle Works for these items.

- c. Mr. Areman noted that SEPTA will be performing an under bridge inspection on the bridge that crosses over Easton Road in Glenside between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Friday, June 17, 2022. There will a detour in place.
- d. Mr. Areman recognized Township staff for participating in the Glenside Elementary School Community Helpers event. He said it was a really nice event and recognized Bo Coyle for his work on the Public Works display.

8. Citizens' Forum

Alon Fain asked questions regarding maps and lists of the Township's facilities. Mr. Zienkowski said that the Township has information about its parks and facilities on its website and in its annual calendar.

9. There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager/Secretary

Per Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager

DRAFT