

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of September 17, 2008
Minutes

Present: Jonathan Abrahams, Steve Barnes, Arnold Henderson, Michael Rosenberg,
Allan Williams, Councilman Jon Erickson

Absent: Joan Ehrenfeld, Gabor Grunstein,

Guest: Borough Administrator Karen Waldron

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM in the Environmental Education Center.
2. The minutes of the July 16, 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. There was no correspondence.
4. There were no new site plans to review.
5. Old Business
 - a. Borough Administrator Karen Waldron came to the meeting to discuss the meadows project and the recent PMA Risk Management Report. Large pieces of concrete at the site continue to be an issue because of the potential tripping hazard to walkers. Karen will talk to DPW to see if they are able to remove some of the concrete pieces that are more problematic. The Commission will send a formal memo to Karen addressing point-by-point all of the issues addressed in the PMA Report. Steve Barnes and Allan Williams purchased all of the needed equipment that was on the list and put in 84 hours of work during the months of July and August. A decision is still needed on how to proceed with signage for the site. The Edison Wetlands Association announced that they will be giving Highland Park \$10,000 for improvements at the Meadows site and \$5,000 for solar panels at the Environmental Education Center..
 - b. Environmental Education Center – CME submitted a plan to the DEP to bring in clean fill as cover material for the site. Approval is needed due to the proximity to the river and the flood plain status of the property. Some areas of the property may remain off limits to the public. The solar structure is starting to need painting. The paint is starting to flake off in some locations. There may be a grant for a sculpture garden at the site and for a watering system.
 - c. Community Wildlife Habitat – A teacher at Bartle School wants to get the school on the list as a wildlife habitat.
 - d. Waiver Form – Allan will prepare a draft waiver form for volunteers and send it to Karen Waldron.

6. New Business

- a. ANJEC has scheduled a workshop in Highland Park on October 30, at 7:00 PM. The title will be “Greening Your Master Plan and Ordinances”. More information will be forthcoming from ANJEC.
- b. The former YMHA building including the historic Rice/Meyer house was torn down this week. Some Borough officials were surprised by the quick demolition as the owner was to talk to the mayor. The Borough did grant a demolition permit to the owner. The Borough should have an ordinance that covers the demolition of historic structures as many have been demolished with little oversight.

7. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday October 15, at 8:00 PM.