

Minutes of EJAB

Meeting Date: June 5, 2007

Call to order: The quarterly meeting of the Environmental Justice Advisory Board was held in the Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St, Harrisburg, PA on June 5, 2007.

The meeting convened at 9:15 am, Arthur Frank presiding.

Members in attendance:

Ayanna King	Dr. Arthur Frank
Patrick O'Neill	Dr. Clea Patrick Hollis
Rev. Wm Rocky Brown	Ann Morrison
Dr. Mark White	Monica Fisher
Laureen Boles	Mary Vuccola
KV Singh	Erlinda Agron
Dr. Robbie Ali	Michael Walker

Members absent (excused):

Eli Brill	Mario Browne
Luvennise Gamble	C Nolan Howell
Rocky Boone	

Members absent (unexcused)

Jerry Balter

Non-members:

Marylou Barton	Holly Cairns
Alice Wright-Bailey	Don Brown
Janis Dean	Doan Barefield
Kelly Heffner	Marcus Kohl
Nora Carreras	Jack Farster
Christina Simeone	Jackie Lincoln

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Arthur Frank, Chair asked everyone to introduce himself or herself.

Ayanna King invited Kelly Heffner and Christina Simeone to give the Board a brief introduction of their role with DEP and the Board.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Dr. Mark White to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2006 and April 12, 2007 meetings.
- Seconded by: Mary Vuccola
 - All in favor: motion carried

OEA Staff Reports

OEA Director, South East, South West and South Central Environmental Advocates discussed work activities and projects going on within the various regions.

DEP Granting / Jacqueline Lincoln & Jack Farster

Dr. Frank introduced Jackie Lincoln. Ms. Lincoln explained her role and the Grant Center's function.

Dr. Arthur Frank mentioned to Ms. Lincoln that he would appoint three Board members to review the survey to incorporate environmental justice questions before submitting the survey to the various programs.

He also mentioned reviewing draft guidance documents.

Jack Farster gave the Board a status report on the educational grants since members of EJAB and OEA participated in the review and scoring process for the grants.

Dr. Frank asked Jack if he could forward to Ms. King a list of educational grants for the Board to review the language and incorporate language around an environmental justice criterion.

- A motion was made by Rocky Brown to send letter of support for the Herron Avenue Corridor Coalition who is applying for the Energy Harvest grant.
- Seconded by: Dr. Mark White
 - Abstained: Arthur Frank, Mike Walker, Mark White, Laureen Boles, Mary Vuccola, Patrick O'Neil, Robbie Ali, Erlinda Agron
 - Vote tabled until Board has a quorum

Precautionary Principle Presentation – Discussion / Dr. Arthur Frank

Dr. Frank was asked by the Board to present on the precautionary principle at past EJAB meetings to determine if the EJAB would like to use these principles as guiding principle

for their decision-making and make a recommendation to the Secretary on how these principles can benefit the DEP.

- Monica Fisher makes a motion to adopt the Precautionary Principles
- Seconded by: Rev. Rocky Brown
 - All in favor: motion carried with amendments adding the best practices approach.

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities / Rosemary Brown

Dr. Arthur Frank introduced Rosemary Brown, Director of Programs and Community Investment for the Foundation for Enhancing Communities.

Ms. Brown was invited by Ayanna King and Monica Fisher to discuss how the Foundation can develop a partnership with OEA and the Board to achieve some of its goals as it relates to creating more awareness for environmental justice for the Commonwealth.

Public Comment Period

No discussion

Supreme Court Review / Marylou Barton

Dr. Frank asked Ms. Barton to update the Board on the Supreme Court ruling.

EJAB Strategic Planning Session

Dr. Arthur Frank discussed with the members the Five-Year Strategic Planning process in order to finalize it and to present the areas of interest the Board would like to recommend to the Secretary.

Dr. Frank asked the Members to review the EJAB vision and mission for revisions or endorsements.

- Monica Fisher makes a motion to form a sub-committee to review and make changes to the vision and mission statements
- Seconded by: Rocky Brown
- Vote tabled on the mission

- EJAB changed its Vision statement to the following: *To advocate for the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in the process of environmental decision-making throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*
- Dr. Frank made a motion to adopt the vision
- Seconded by: Mary Vuccola
- All in favor: motion carried

Ann Morrison, Patrick O'Neill, and Mary Vuccola were asked to form a committee to revamp the Mission statement.

New/Unfinished Business, Questions, and Comment Period

- Ayanna King will ask Secretary McGinty if the Board can have letterhead.
- SB 356 has passed the Senate back in March and currently in the House with the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.
- Arthur Frank would like to have the environmental person from the Department of Education to present at the upcoming meeting.
- Ann Morrison was asked to Chair the exploratory committee to form a partnership with The Foundation for Enhancing Communities.
 - Serving along with her: Lauren Boles, Erlinda Agron, and Eli Brill.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm