

Environment Council of Rhode Island



Membership Meeting, Dept. of Admin. Bldg., Conference Room B
April 1, 2019, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Attendees: Polly Barey, Angie Koziara, Erika Niedowski, Paul Beaudette, Paul Roselli, Richard Dionne, Lauren Moore, Kenneth Filarski, Jason Olkowski, John Berard, Eugenia marks, Sue Korte, Jed Thorp, Gregory Schultz, Chris Ratcliffe, Jim Corwin, Katherine Gibson, Dana Goodman, Paul Tavares, Vatic Kuumba, Leah Bamberger, Andrea Atkinson, Jeanine Silversmith, Priscilla De la Cruz, Meg Kerr, Greg Gerritt.

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes
2. Office Report (Greg Gerritt)
 - a. Current balances
 - b. Annual Meeting, June 3rd, Slatersville
 - c. Lobby Day
3. Environmental Education Resolution (Jeanine Sleversmith, RIEEA)
4. Providence Climate Justice Strategy (Andrea Atkinson, Leah Bamberger, Vatic Kuumba, Paul Tavares)
5. Pol Comm Report (John Berard)
6. Nominating Committee
7. Project Reports
8. Announcements

Minutes

President Meg Kerr opened the meeting at 5:30, followed by a round of introductions.

1. Approval of March minutes

March Minutes: Motion to Approve, Susan Korte. Second, Paul Beaudette. Approved on voice vote.

2. Office Report, presented by Greg Gerritt

- Current Balances
 - ECRI April 1, 2019 \$30,714.94 4/1/18 \$26,094.69
 - Ed fund operations April 1, 2019 \$51,040.10 4/1/18 \$57,861.40
 - Compost conference Income \$5,696 Expenses \$1,871 Net \$3,825
 - Energize repayment fund, so far \$3,277.14 Still to collect about \$3,000.
 - Raffle so far has collected \$795 budget of \$1,000.

- Annual Meeting, June 3rd, Slatersville
Looking for more ads and sponsors. Ticket sales start very soon as soon as it is up on the website. Same price as last year, \$40.
NPS will send a speaker to discuss waterpower.
- Lobby Day
Lobby Day next Thursday. Still room for exhibitors.

- **Resolution on Environmental Education, presented by Jeanine Silversmith, RIEEA**
Proposed ECRI Education Endorsement

Each year, 10,000 students graduate from Rhode Island high schools armed with the attitudes, skills, and knowledge to advance either a pollution free economy, or business as usual. And the climate impact, good or bad, of each of these 10,000 individuals lasts more than a lifetime.

These graduates will be called upon to implement changes in business and personal practices, to support and help develop new technology and policy, and to address the coming social and economic problems and opportunities arising from a changing climate. Top-down solutions alone simply will not suffice without a broad base of climate literate citizens to make them happen.

It is thus imperative to address the lack of knowledge and understanding about climate and carbon in our citizenry, in order that they might more effectively contribute to the solutions to, rather than the causes of, excessive carbon in our atmosphere.

The Environment Council of Rhode Island therefore endorses the inclusion of education in climate-related legislation, as one of a number of essential policy tools and methods intended to address climate change.

After discussion, Motion to approve Eugenia Marks. Second (did not catch who)

Approved unanimously on voice vote.

- **Providence Climate Justice Strategy developed by Providence Racial and Environmental Justice Committee**

Presented by Andrea Atkinson, Leah Bamberger, Vatic Kuumba, Paul Tavares

Front line communities face the biggest problems in Climate Change, feel the largest burdens. But rather than excluding them from the table when decisions are being made about what to do, they should be a key voice in the discussion, leading rather than being excluded. Providence front line communities have high asthma rates, economic inequality is 5th highest in the nation, tree canopy in neighborhoods correlates with income. We must bridge the gap. Can we properly do energy efficiency in rentals? Can we improve communities without gentrification/displacement? And many other examples of issues to face.

Long discussion.

- **Pol Comm Report, John Berard**

John presented the current legislative agenda.

3 categories: Watch list, Agenda, Priorities All approved as presented.

Priorities as of April 1

Supporting

- Plastic Bags
- Solar Siting
- Global Warming Solutions
- Appliance Efficiency Standards

Opposing

- Plastic pyrolysis

- **Nominating Committee Report**

Proposed slate is incomplete. Still need a Treasurer, Secretary.

Proposed slate for 2019 2020 terms so far:

President: Priscilla De La Cruz

Past Presidents serving on Ex Comm: Jerry Elmer, Paul Beaudette

VP Communications: Susan Korte, Malwina Skowron (sharing job)

VP Membership: Eugenia Marks

VP Policy: John Berard

VP Development: Ken Filarski if we find a new Treasurer

Treasurer: ??

Secretary: Judee Burr (but still looking for additional nominee)

NWF Delegate: Greg Gerritt

NWF Alternate: Judee Burr

Still need people for Nominating committee

- **Project reports**

GIC applying for SNEP grant for Stormwater Innovation Center which is moving forward in RWP.

Energize Cleaning up mess, but still working on energy /climate issues at the legislature. GWSA looks like it has a chance this year.

RI School Recycling Club is gearing up to audit school compostable waste streams. Will work in 3 districts this year. Video on RI state parks will be shown in April.

- **Announcements**

- **Adjourn**