

Minutes of Allentown Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
May 8, 2016
City Hall Third Floor Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Tinku Khanwalker
2. Joe Hoffman
3. Mike Renneisen

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Kathryn Hoffman
2. Lindsay Taylor
3. Angela Dibuo

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT (Lindsay Taylor)

1. Bird Town Qualifications
 - A. Greater clarity is needed on what Allentown is doing to demonstrate its commitment as a Bird Town
 - B. There is a \$450/yr membership fee to be paid to PA Audubon to continue to receive the Bird Town designation. Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation has not paid this fee and does not know whether anyone has been paying it.
 - C. Tinku will inquire into whether Allentown is paying a membership fee and whether the benefits of retaining the Bird Town designation justifies the fee.
 - Based on Tinku's findings, we will Brainstorm next meeting about whether we wish to continue as a Bird Town and, if so, how we can meet the qualifications.
2. Valania Park Master Plan Meeting Scheduled for May 30, 2017
 - A. Parks and Recreation is hoping to make Valania Park ADA compliant
 - B. See Parks and Recreation for more details regarding meeting place
 - C. There is significant debate regarding how the park should be used.
3. Steven's Park Reopened May 12, 2017
 - A. Park is located at Sixth and Tilghman streets.
 - B. EAC will look into the possibility of hosting a rain-barrel program at this location.
4. Lake Muhlenberg Report
 - A. Allentown has contracted with USDA's Animal Plan Health Inspection Service ("APHIS") to handle Canada Geese overpopulation at Lake Muhlenberg
 - B. APHIS may use dogs, alpha chorolos, and "egg shaking" to reduce the number of Canada Geese populating the park.
 - C. Overpopulation leads to significant water quality issues and destruction of park property due to infectious waste left by the birds.

D. Parks and Recreation has received only two complaints about the methods used by APHIS.

PUBLIC WORKS MS4 PRESENTATION (Angela Dibuo)

1. Allentown's Public Works Department provided a very detailed and informative presentation on how Allentown handles its storm water runoff and the struggles it is facing to remedy Allentown's shortcomings as noted by the Environmental Protection Agency's audit in 2014.
2. EPA has not provided a compliance determination
3. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection has not renewed Allentown's permit since 2009. So Allentown continues to operate under the old permit as provided by regulation.
4. Angela will provide EAC with a working map showing Allentown Storm water outfalls
5. Angela will provide EAC with the current permit from DEP which Allentown is currently working under.
6. Angela will provide EAC with a .pdf copy of her presentation so that it will be available on the EAC website.
7. On May 18, 2017, the Green Storm water Infrastructure Meeting will be held at the 3rd Floor Conference Room at the Public Works building at 4:00 PM.
8. Angela will inquire as to whether the EAC can move its meetings to a conference room at the Public Works building.

MOTIONS

1. Tinku motioned that all non-controversial items be approved by email.
- Seconded by Joe and **APPROVED**.
2. In order to increase EAC membership, Mike moved to assign each EAC member, five Allentown community group presidents to contact each month to inquire about Allentown residents interested in joining the EAC.
- Seconded by Tinku and **APPROVED**.

The meeting was duly adjourned at 7:30 p.m.