

Minutes of August 14th EAC Meeting

The Allentown EAC met on August 14th, 2017 starting at 5:15 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room at Allentown City Hall.

EAC members present: Tinku Khanwalkar, Marissa Altmann, Joseph Hoffman

City officials present: None

Non-EAC members present: Jo-Ann Pendleton, Dillan Erdman

- The EAC convened the meeting at 5:20 p.m.
- The meeting began with brief introductions and a quick summary of major focuses for this year: bird strike prevention, stormwater, and outreach.
- Tinku provided background on the number of openings on the EAC, and the difference between Mayoral and Council-Appointed positions.
- The July EAC minutes were duly approved.
- Although the EAC planned to discuss the collaborative event with the Phantoms, no one from the Phantoms was able to attend as Joe's contact there has been promoted. They currently need to select a replacement but Joe is hopeful that someone will be able to attend the September meeting.
 - It was noted that the EAC should identify ways to integrate outreach with this event for people who might not go to the games, i.e. showcasing displays in public areas for non-ticketed individuals.
- There was no representative present from the Department of Parks and Recreation. The EAC further discussed the issue of improper landscaping (and perhaps enforcement) at Lake Muhlenberg that is resulting in nuisance Canada Geese, and a subsequent lethal management contract with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services.
 - It is cheaper in the long term to leave more vegetation around the Lake, as long as appropriate species are selected. Mowing is quite expensive.
 - One concern is that people want certain views for the pictures and ambiance desired for the weddings held at this location.
 - There is a lack of public education regarding a) the ongoing management of Canada Geese and b) the steps that could be taken to mitigate the need for such management

practices. Improved public education would provide needed support for alternative management practices at the Lake.

- The EAC is unsure how strictly the regulations prohibiting the feeding of waterfowl are being enforced.
- Dillan volunteered to compare existing records for the cost of lawn maintenance around Lake Muhlenberg with a quote for more holistic landscaping. Joe will ask the Parks Department for records of lawn maintenance cost at Lake Muhlenberg.
- Tinku mentioned that the Wildlands Conservancy did create a plan and quote for conversion of the Lake into a more natural wetland area via dam removal. However, to mitigate the goose issue, even small landscaping changes like the planting of shrubs or allowance for larger/taller riparian buffers (i.e. permaculture) could be sufficient, which is a different quote that Dillan can provide.
- Tinku moved for the EAC, through Dillan, to take a look at cost to aesthetically maintain landscaping around Lake Muhlenberg to reduce the amount of lawn to abate the waterfowl nuisance problem and improve stormwater management. The motion was seconded and approved. Dillan will report back at the next meeting in September.
- A representative from Public Works Department was not present at the meeting. The EAC discussed the request to post municipal building energy usage on EAC web site.
 - Tinku met an individual who suggested that Allentown join the Global Compact of Mayors, which would include more detailed carbon disclosure. Bethlehem and Easton have joined the Global Compact, and Tinku inquired whether the EAC should suggest this in a letter to the Mayor.
 - The EAC determined that the City has already committed to making publicly available the initially requested municipal building energy usage, and that the EAC will work to make that happen before we go to the next step. Joining the Global Compact may require the hiring of consultants to calculate additional data, which would require a project budget, RFP, and approval by City Council which is much more complex and may or may not be of interest to residents of Allentown.
- Marissa reported that Craig has someone looking for the PowerPoint on Sustainability to post on the Allentown Environment webpage.
- Mike was not present to provide an update on the Bird Strike Report.
 - Tinku has not yet scheduled a City Council meeting to present on this topic, so the EAC will wait for the report to be completed.

- Marissa suggested sending the existing documents/reports from other successful cities like San Francisco and San Jose to City Council instead of making a new report.
- The goal would be to have a recommendation within the planning code that would target key areas where strikes may occur (near water bodies, parks, green roofs). The City Council would pass an ordinance to require that the Planning Commission include recommended bird strike mitigation measures within its guidelines.
- Tinku makes a motion to present the San Francisco and San Jose report and the proposed New Jersey Bill to City Council for consideration of an Allentown ordinance requiring the Allentown planning commission to include in its guidelines recommendations on bird strike mitigation measures from those reports. The motion was seconded and duly approved.
- Marissa will draft a brief policy and will send it to the EAC members as well as the reports to present to City Council.
- Marissa provided a very brief report of the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Focus Group and was generally pleased with the outcomes. Marissa will draft something brief for City Council in support of the credit/incentive program.
- The EAC event at the PPL center will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Regarding the location of future EAC meetings, Joe reported that the Parks Department is investigating the possibility of using Parks buildings. They are concerned with re-programming the security systems to allow for evening meetings.
- Joe will check with Karen from Friends of Allentown Parks to see if that might be a better possibly.
- The EAC meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.