

DRAFT  
Allentown EAC Meeting  
October 9, 2017

EAC Members Present: Tinku Khanwalkar, Marissa Altman, Joe Hoffman

Non-EAC Members Present: Korbin Price, Liz Hunt, Nicholas Pepen, Jennifer Swann

The meeting was convened at 5:23 p.m.

Korbin Price introduced himself as a realtor. He serves on the Whitehall Area Chamber's Board of Directors and is also on the task force for leadership for realtors, and the education committee

Liz Hunt introduced herself as a mortgage loan officer. She is about to move into Allentown. She has been involved in the Emmaus City Council. She enjoys community service, fundraising and networking. Her passion is to minimize the City's environmental footprint.

Nicholas Pepen introduced himself as a college student going to school in Scranton. He lives in Orefield.

Jennifer Swan introduced herself as a biology professor at Lehigh University. She is a resident of Allentown and is interested in advising the City on issues related to trash and plastics.

- Discussion of possible change of location of future EAC meetings
  - Issue with the parks buildings is that it is locked at 4:30 p.m.
  - Tinku will ask Karen El Chaar whether the Friends of the Allentown Parks building can be used for future EAC meetings.
  - Could also consider changing the time of the meetings to 8am-9am or start earlier at 5:00 p.m. so that other buildings could become available
  - Korbin will ask regarding the use of Allentown Chamber of Commerce space in the Butz building
  - Will discuss moving start time at the next meeting
- Approval of September Minutes
  - Duly approved
- Report from Department of Parks and Recreation (Lindsay Taylor)
  - Joe Hoffman will be going to Valania Park Meeting on Thursday
  - Joe Hoffman visited Lindsay for an hour in August and asked about Jordan Creek Skatepark

- Nobody is watching the water situation
  - Joe brought it up and was told it was early in the process
  - There was only a preliminary design at that point, not a formal design
  - Will see later what things they have in mind
  - Stormwater concern that we have is infiltration... preliminary designs did not show adequate stormwater controls.
  - We may need a letter from EAC to Parks Dept. bringing up that concern. We want to make absolutely sure that it is being considered.
  - Tinku moved that EAC submit an official letter to Dept. of Parks requesting the Department to ensure that adequate stormwater controls are being considered in the design of Jordan Creek Skatepark.
  - Marissa modified Tinku's motion to state as follows: In light of the recent focus on green stormwater infrastructure in the City of Allentown, and considering concern for the health of our waterways... \*\*\*\* Marissa will send a draft. Will go out from Tinku as chair.
  - Marissa also suggested that we urge opportunities for collaboration on green infrastructure with Dept of public works. Letter can be along the following lines: \*\*\* with respect to all of the work going on in parks, money may become available through the City in support of GSI and we encourage you to do so, and tap into available funding.
  - Joe Hoffman noted that the Parks Department is also considering the re-doing of Franklin park and the problem is that Franklin park isn't very sturdy. It's mostly paved and blacktop. There is no plan yet.
  - Not much funding from Trexler Trust is being used for this. Existing system is over \$1m from Trexler Trust.
- Report from Public Works Department (Craig Messinger)
    - Posting municipal building energy usage on EAC web site
      - Will look into posting PowerPoint on Sustainability in Allentown on EAC web site
      - Marissa will ask Angie for any updates on stormwater content for the website
      - Marissa gave new attendees an update on the stormwater utility, credits, and incentives
  - Tinku provided an update on city council meeting
    - Also talked about the stormwater fee. Ahead of Tinku were a bunch of people complaining about the fee. Tinku told city council that from the EAC's perspective, stormwater is an important issue for the city, City needs to find

ways to fund the things that need to be done with stormwater. From EAC's perspective the City has taken the right approach especially regarding incentives and credits to mitigate. We like the list that would encourage such action by Allentonians.

- Complainers were largely homeowners. 5-6 people.
- If EAC writes a letter it will be in line with Tinku's comments
- Tinku also mentioned the vacancies on the EAC and Council asked for names
- Tinku also requested City Council to commission a study on the environmental value of the parcel being proposed for development at South Mountain so that the zoning board can have the benefit of the study before it takes action.
- The EAC further discussed the South Mountain development
  - Joe Hoffman noted that if there's any application filed, these things might move quickly
  - How will we know if something happens?
    - Joe made a motion to send a letter to the Zoning Commission, to the person who makes the schedule, to notify us immediately if there is a request regarding this parcel.
  - The EAC discussed sending a letter to Council officially requesting that the value of the parcel be assessed.
  - Tinku clarified Joe's motion to state that the EAC should send a letter to Frederick Andreco expressing the desire to receive notification of any request to rezone the South Mountain property that was brought up at the City Council meeting (we need to find the parcel number), to be discussed in person between Joe Hoffman and with Frederick Andreco. Marissa is interested in also attending the meeting. The motion was approved.
- The EAC discussed making a proposal to City Council on bird strike mitigation (Marissa)
  - Marissa will distribute a draft three-pager.
- Report on proposed Lake Muhlenberg landscaping -- cost comparison (Dillan Erdman)
  - What % of city's budget is spent mowing lawns and deterring the geese through contract with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services. – Marissa will e-mail the question to Joe to ask Lindsay.
- EAC event at PPL Center (all)
  - Joe update – told them to wait until November to come. The event is scheduled for Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We can have up to 8 – 10 stalls.

- Highlight event – giving everyone free environmentally friendly shopping bags. Cloth bags.
- 8500-9000 people expected
- Tinku will mention the March EAC event at green drinks on Wednesday (the topic is on wind)
- Joe will be the coordinator for the event – send him email
- Actions to be taken:
  - Draft the invitation and start a spreadsheet
  - Put up on LV birdtown coalition meet-up site
  - Invite environmental groups to pitch their ideas, and we will select the best
  - Possible interested groups: Wildlands, LV Zoo, LV Audubon, Lehigh University, Muhlenberg College, Cedar Crest College
  - Will discuss further at January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting
  - By December 31<sup>st</sup> to receive the proposals
  - Marissa will do the application form
  - Form will ask for name, contact info, description of water-related theme
  - Joe can tell us how big the booths are
  - EAC booth can be about stormwater
  - Joe to check whether Phantoms logo can be used in invitational flyers to be distributed to potential participants
  - Joe to check how big each booth can be

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