

## Minutes of March 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Allentown EAC

The meeting commenced at 5:15 p.m. in the basement conference room of the Allentown Public Library.

In attendance: Joseph Hoffman, Tinku Khanwalkar, Liz Hunt, Christa Kraftician

The February minutes were approved.

There was a discussion about the change in Allentown's mayor and the implications for the EAC. It was decided that in light of the number of different mayors we will have until May 2021, the EAC's prime contact with the City should now be an individual on City Council. Cynthia Mota and Candida Affa were suggested as the best council members to be the EAC point of contact. Joseph Hoffman offered to attend the next City Council meeting to make the request.

There was a discussion of the current status of the applications of Liz Hunt and Jennifer Swann to be on the EAC. Joseph Hoffman offered to check on the status with Mike Hanlon when he attends the next City Council meeting.

### **Report on Parks and Recreation (Joseph Hoffman):**

- The first meeting of the steering committee for the Auburn Cross Trails Park (located at the old incinerator site) was held and 5 proposals were reviewed. There are 22 acres available and the concept is to use 12 acres for a park and the other 10 for industrial redevelopment. Issues are stormwater, arsenic, impacts on 4 streams and the deteriorated condition of the site.
- The Irving Street Park Steering Committee held its first public meeting. Approximately 20 people attended, including three from City Council. There were no environmental-related discussions as this is being seen as an athletic park only. However stormwater issues could arise if overbuilt.
- Franklin Park Steering Committee to begin meeting this summer.
- Lehigh Canal Park overhaul is to begin this summer.
- Work at the following parks is in progress: Jordan Creek Greenway, Jordan Park Skate Park, Velania Park.
- The Parks and Recreation Department is overwhelmed with work

### **Report on South Mountain Parcel (Joseph Hoffman):**

- The hearing at the Planning Commission was very well attended. Dr. McGuire spoke forcefully and eloquently on the environmental concerns with proposed development of the property currently zoned as a Christmas tree farm. Joseph Hoffman did not need to add much to Dr. McGuire's remarks.

- The property owner's next steps may be to appeal to the Zoning Board or to City Council, or create a new application
- Last week City Council approved conducting a Feasibility Study to look at the environmental value of the parcel as requested by the EAC last fall.

**Report from Public Works:**

There was no one in attendance from Public Works, so this agenda item was skipped.

**List of 2018 Events for Dissemination of EAC messages (Liz Hunt):**

Liz Hunt will work with Iron Pigs to hold an environmental event there. The EAC will not table other events as we do not have enough people.

**EAC Monthly Messages (Liz Hunt):**

- Liz Hunt will coordinate obtaining materials on EAC monthly messages to post on Facebook and on the EAC's web site. Topics will be selected three months in advance. For the next three months the topics are:
  - April -- topic with an Earth Day spin and a focus on Native and Invasive Plants (Tinku to provide);
  - May – biking savvy (Jennifer to provide);
  - June – Gardens with information on bees (Liz to provide)

**Environmental Awards (Liz Hunt):**

After extensive discussion, it was concluded that the EAC does not have enough resources to run an awards event.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.