

**Allentown EAC Meeting  
November 11, 2019  
Allentown City Hall 5th Floor Conference Room**

EAC Members present: Alejandra Soler, Tinku Khanwalkar, Liz Hunt, David Melman

Non-EAC members present: Brian Hillard (Bethlehem EAC), Stefan (interested resident of Allentown), Matt Kloiber (Allentown Solicitor)

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m.

- Following introductions, minutes of the October meeting were unanimously approved

**Old Business**

- **Next steps on micro-mobility:**
  - Step 1: During Courtesy of the Floor at a January City Council meeting, **David Melman will make a brief statement** to inform City Council that in the near future the EAC will be seeking a resolution from City Council in support of micro-mobility, including bike share programs. **David will briefly explain** the benefits of micro-mobility and that some programs (like bike sharing) can be done at no cost to the City and possibly even as a public-private partnership with profit-sharing. **David will explain** that we intend to work with Joshua Siegel on the wording of the resolution and that we will ask for 15 minutes on City Council's agenda in February or March at which the EAC, along with

Kalyna Procyk of Muhlenberg College, will make a presentation about the resolution. [Note: David will contact Josh in advance so as not to blindside him].

- Step 2: Liz, Klayna and David will draft a resolution for EAC input at the January EAC meeting. Following agreement by the EAC, the draft resolution will be shared with Joshua Siegel (by David), Craig Messinger (by Tinku) and Joe McMahon (by Tinku) for their input. A revised draft resolution will be circulated (by David or Liz) for final EAC approval and submission to City Council (by Jennifer Swann), and Tawanna Whitehead will be contacted (by Tinku) to place it on City Council's agenda. David, Liz and Kalyna will spread the word to encourage as many supporters as possible to attend the City Council meeting at which the resolution will be presented.
- **Student Internships:**
  - **Building 21 Tree Inventory:** This project is a "go" and will launch in the spring semester. Karen El Chaar will provide the priority list of parks to be inventoried and the specific data desired. Tinku has offered to mentor the students but other EAC members can do so as well.
  - **Muhlenberg Plastics Initiative:** Jennifer Swann met with Peter Crownfeld of Alliance for Sustainable Communities. Peter provided a lot of information on how to structure a student internship program on plastics initiatives. Liz, Alejandra and Jennifer will work together on this. Further discussion to be held at the January planning meeting.
  - **Muhlenberg on GHG Inventory and Climate Action Planning:** As part of Pennsylvania's statewide Climate Action Plan, the Department of

Environmental Protection (DEP) has an outreach program to help municipalities develop their greenhouse gas inventories and climate action planning. Utilizing ICLEI's emissions inventory programming as well as internal guidance, the program connects student interns with local governments to conduct an emissions inventory and develop a climate action plan. There is no cost to the local government. The program runs over two semesters, the first to conduct the inventory, the second to develop the plan. Tinku and Kalyna discussed DEP's program with Heidi Kunka (DEP) and Brian Hillard to see if Allentown can partner with Muhlenberg under this program. Allentown's participation would be free if the program continues next year. Heidi was reasonably sure it would continue but it is contingent on DOE funding. The university would need to recruit the students and the EAC would need to provide the mentor to the students and to facilitate obtaining the data from the City. Alejandra will be the EAC interface with the students and Tinku will be the EAC interface with the City.

- **Report on Keep Allentown Beautiful:** Liz reported that the November meeting was cancelled due to scheduling difficulties. Future meeting pushed out to after the holidays. If January results in the same inability for interested parties to attend, then the EAC should invite Kristin to host the meeting as a subcommittee or group under the EAC so we can collaborate recruitment initiatives between this and filling EAC vacancies.
- **Next Steps on Barnes Lane Property:** David Melman will research whether the Planning Commission is prohibited from demanding an environmental assessment and commitment to appropriate stormwater mitigation measures before it approves the developer's application to convert this green space into a single-family housing development. David will also research whether City Council is prohibited from passing a resolution that would note the importance

of understanding stormwater impacts from development and taking appropriate mitigation measures in light of the City's existing stormwater issues .

- **Report on Parks and Recreation:**

- Karen El Chaar is seeking EAC support on funding for renovations to Boggart's Bridge which is crumbling and will need to be removed if not renovated. She needs \$2 million. The state issued a conditional grant of \$750K contingent on a 50% match by the City. City Council will discuss this at the November 18th budget meeting starting at 5:00 p.m. On motion made and unanimously approved, the EAC decided that this is not a matter that falls within the EAC's purview but members can speak in support in their individual capacities. **Liz Hunt may attend** and speak in support of Council approval of the \$375K.
- Bicentennial Park needs a make-over. Karen would like to convert it to a soccer stadium and is looking for the EAC to help find grant money for it. Alejandra noted that this could fall within the EAC's purview if the project includes planting additional trees in the park. **Jennifer will need to obtain further details at her next meeting with Karen.**
- The Park Spark concept for beneficially using dog waste may be a viable research project through Lehigh University's Energy Systems Engineering Institute. **Tinku will discuss with Jennifer.** Further discussion to be held at the January planning meeting.

- **Report on City Council:** David Melman had nothing to report

- **Report on Public Works:** Tinku is working with Craig Messinger's staff on climate action data to put on the EAC web site.

## **New Business**

- **ACEEE Data Request:** Allentown has been included in the data requests and disclosures by the American Council on and Energy Efficient Economy. Joe McMahon is leading the review of the data. Submission deadline is November 16. This will be an ongoing thing and should be wrapped into the data that the EAC makes available on its web page.
- **January Planning Meeting:** Motion made and unanimously approved to hold a short EAC meeting in January (from 5:00 - 6:00 PM) followed immediately by the Planning Meeting to be held at Tinku's house from 6:30 - 8:30 PM.
- **Community Gardens, Edible Landscaping, Urban and Suburban Agriculture:** *Alejandra will research this in her individual capacity* and it will be discussed at the January Planning Meeting.
- **DEP Office of Environmental Justice Roundtable:** The DEP (email from Justin Dula) has asked whether the Allentown EAC would be interested in developing a roundtable to focus on environmental concerns of particular interest to environmental justice community leaders. The DEP needs local experts to commit to two or three phone calls to identify roundtable location, timing, invitees and expected topics. The EAC concluded that *Tinku will inform the DEP* that an Allentown EAC member may participate, depending upon the location and timing of the meetings.

