

Meeting of Allentown EAC
February 10 , 2020

In attendance - Jennifer Swann, Janet Gehringher, Holly Edinger, David Melman, Elizabeth Hunt, Diana Fandl, Barbra A Krole, Lewin Shape, Tnku Khanwalkar, Alejandra Soler.

Meeting called to order at 5:20 PM

1. Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes) – All
2. Old Business
3. Approval of January minutes – (5 minutes) – Tinku
4. Barnes Lane Property Update – (5 minutes) – Dave
 - a. The City is likely to approve. The next step will be an NPDES permit that the developer will need to obtain in order to discharge water into an unnamed tributary on the property. Motion was made and passed (5 yes and one abstain) that the Allentown EAC will not be reviewing or commenting on the NPDES permit draft when issued, but EAC members can do so in their individual capacity.
 - b. Dave has reiterated to the city council that the council look into and require an environmental assessment. The residents need to consult a land use lawyer.

5. Approval of 2020 Goals – (15 minutes) – Tinku
 - a. Motion was made and goals were unanimously approved

*** By next meeting each will have a set of goals and steps to achieve this goals

6. Report on Status of Each Goal
 - a. Micro-mobility resolution and next steps – (5 minutes)
 - i. Dave and Liz will meet and have a draft available at the March meeting
 - b. Muhlenberg Internships descriptions – (3 minutes) Jennifer
 - i. Goals and requirements of the program will be ready by the next meeting
 - c. Park Spark project with Lehigh University – (3 minutes) – Tinku and Jennifer
 - i. Tinku is in touch with an individual who will work on this project if she is accepted in Lehigh University's ESEI program
 - d. Tree Inventory with Building 21 – (2 minutes) – Tinku
 - i. Karen El Chaar wants to revise this project to be a project to remove litter and invasive plants along the parks near Building 21 (Fountain Park and Valania Park)
 - e. Climate Action next steps – (3 minutes) – Tinku
 - i. resolution proposed by Josh Siegel to support the federal bill (Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act) – Allentown is among the first cities in the Lehigh Valley to be approached to

issue such a resolution. It is expected that city council will pass the resolution

- ii. The federal bill imposes a tax on the GHG content of fuel. The money is to be placed in a fund, the net proceeds of which will go to each legal resident of the United States on a per capita basis. A recent study by Duquesne University suggests that Allentown will significantly benefit from this because of increased jobs particularly on the health care field
- iii. Motion to support Josh Siegel's proposed resolution passed - 5 yes and 1 no.

Further discussion:

Alejandra stated that the money should be reinvested into green energy etc. otherwise it is unclear that it would result in carbon reductions

Holly Edinger stated that the bill will encourage the energy companies to spend on renewables

Tinku state that there are a lot of studies that support this method of achieving greenhouse gas reductions; insisting on tax being spent on renewables would be great but we need to get this passed first.

Alejandra would like to make amendments to the federal bill and is concerned about the where the money is going.

David Liz and Tinku will attend the next city council meeting on the 19th to express EAC's support for the resolution

f. 2020 Earth Day – (5 minutes) – Liz

- i. No updates yet - Liz will have a proposal by the March meeting for 2021
- ii. Speak to the director of arts quest - he has a list of vendors
- iii. Park needs to be reserved through parks and recreation,
- iv. Recycling has an earth day on their records
- v. Should EAC work with Parks and rec or public works? Liz suggested that she will follow up with public works

g. Community Gardens – (5 minutes) – Alejandra

- i. Will talk to Sarah Payne who works in Lancaster.
- ii. Will attend the 2030 ambassadors meeting to see what else is being planned

h. Single Use Plastics – (5 minutes) – Alejandra

- i. Would like to approach Allentown businesses with a multi-faceted ethics certification that includes plastics; Lots of different companies are working on this
- ii. The first step is to do an impact assessment
 - 1. Alejandra will create a survey - she will look on line to see what others do
 - 2. Liz has a list of business
- iii. After the survey is collected the second step is to generate talking points and third step is to go to the business

1. May need funding or make it into an internship project with a local college
- iv. There is a list of entities that are producing biodegradables; there is a complaint process set in place for violators;
- v. Climate reality project has done this and has information on how it's affecting the area.
- vi. There is no ordinance against single use plastics, or authority to pass the ordinance.
 1. Does the city want to have a no plastics certification available? Has anyone talked to city council about such a certification?
- i. Increasing awareness of EAC – (5 minutes) – Alejandra
 - i. We need 3 things to highlight on Facebook. The following are some :
 1. our 2020 goals:
 2. micro mobility,
 3. single stream recycling, what can be placed in there and what cannot ('Know your no nos'),
 4. community gardens,
 5. actions on litter and keeping Allentown beautiful
 - ii. Not just digital
- j. Amending EAC By-laws and ordinance – Tinku and Dave to work on this for next meeting
- k. Litter - keeping Allentown beautiful (Liz)
- l. Advance Allentown's reporting of environmental data and development of a climate action plan (Tinku)
7. Report on meetings with Public Works (5 minutes) – Dave
 - a. Liz will take over these. Meeting starts at 10:00 AM - they wants us there at 11:00 AM. Tinku provided Liz with the schedule
 - b. Contact is Craig Messenger
8. Letter to Craig Messenger (5 minutes) – Tinku
 - a. Tinku to send Craig Messinger a note complimenting his department for the information made available on their website and requesting action on renewable energy and micro mobility
9. Report on meeting with Parks and Recreation (5 minutes) – Jennifer
 - a. What can the EAC do to increase the information on the invasive plants
 - i. 2020 earth day event - building 21 clean up of trash and invasive could be the earth day invent. Parks will provide the gloves and bags for trash (Iiz)
 - b. Education and communicating could come from Parks - they have a greater following and more employees; we will limit ours to social media
 - c. Lake Muhlenberg needs attention
 - i. Hog weed is invasive and caustic
10. Report on City Council meetings (5 minutes) – Dave – no report
11. New Business
 - a. Rezoning of Atiyeh and Rohrbach properties at St. Elmo Street

- i. Non conforming Industrial park - could be a fair amount of contamination so should be assessed before this can be used as a residential property; there are departments that do this
- ii. City council is still on the zoning aspect- no EAC input yet
- iii. Motion - EAC will communicate to Josh Siegel (our liaison) that we are interested in the rezoning of the property and the results of the city council discussion on the environmental impacts.

12. Decision on March meeting - we will meet Monday, March 2nd
At 5:15 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM