

Allentown EAC Meeting
April 13, 2020

Welcome and Introductions

Present: David Melman, Liz Hunt, Elizabeth Cichonski, Holly Edinger, Arundhati Khanwalkar, Jennifer Swann (note taker)

EAC Members absent: Alejandra Soler

Approval of Minutes -- approved

Reports on Goals:

Micro-mobility — Draft resolution for City Council and next steps: Liz and Dave will continue to work to have a draft resolution for the May meeting

Muhlenberg Internships — (Tinku): on hold because of the pandemic

Building 21 Project — (Tinku): on hold because of the pandemic

Earth Day 2021 (Liz):

Bethlehem EAC is tracking waste and self-reporting for the week of earth day this could be done through public works department. Holly suggested that Allentown is going through so much with corona virus that it would be insensitive for us to try something this year. Alejandra could push something out to our social media ; might be better through public works – (more readership than our social media); could propose it to public works to proceed at their discretion.

Park Spark Project (Jennifer):

Jennifer and Tinku met with Rudy Shankar

– primarily research and design to start then building as a second step.

- food waste could also be a part of the project
- Bethlehem EAC is working to collect the waste from restaurants; this is on the back of green restaurants program which is a plastic bag ban ordinance that was passed before the state banned it.

Community Gardens — (Alejandra): Discussion deferred for the next meeting

Single Use Plastics — (Alejandra):
Discussion deferred. The EAC jointly completed the survey distributed by PennEnvironment on single use plastics. Dave will serve as the contact for the survey if contacted for follow-up.

Litter Removal — (Liz):
Not a main focus of our goals. However, an idea was floated at the LV EAC meeting that the municipalities in the Lehigh Valley come together to fight litter. Pick specific days to clean and let the communities know that we are waging a war against litter.
This is similar to the Keep Allentown Beautiful campaign managed by Public Works. Liz will include the effort as a focal point when she attends the public works meetings since they already have the campaign.

Environmental Data Reporting and Climate Action Plan (Tinku): no meetings – due to the pandemic.

Public Awareness of EAC (Alejandra): Alejandra has developed a flyer to post on social media and City Hall elevators to announce EAC meetings. Tinku will forward.

Updates to EAC Bylaws and Ordinance (Tinku):
Holly Ettinger is willing to attend planning commission meetings as an EAC liaison and see if anyone on the planning commission would attend EAC meetings

Tinku reviewed various proposed amendments to Ordinance No. 14566 (which established the EAC) for preliminary input from EAC members before posting for official EAC action at the May meeting. Once approved by the EAC, David Melman will obtain Council approval of the amended ordinance and then Tinku will revise the Bylaws to make them consistent with the amended ordinance.

Tinku will alert the mayor prior to Dave's speaking to city council.

Reports from EAC liaisons:

Parks and Recreation (Jennifer) postponed until May

Public Works (Liz) – Liz will attend in May

City Council (Dave) has been sick so has not attended

Planning Commission (NEW!) Holly will report in May

Old Business:

Atiyeah and Rohrbach properties (Tinku): concern for the EAC is potential industrial contamination

Barnes Lane — (Tinku): will keep on the agenda until the city has no more action to take on it

New Business

EAC support of Allentown noise project (Tinku) met with John Annoni. The project consists of community members taking pictures of places in Allentown they go to get away from noise. Not clear what the EAC's role is here. We do not have promotional capabilities.

Report on Lehigh Valley EAC Network (Tinku, Jennifer and Alejandra): Tinku will forward the notes from the meeting to the rest of the EAC.

Elizabeth is interested in laying the ground work for food waste collection in Allentown. This will be added to the agenda in May.