

Allentown EAC Meeting  
August 17, 2020

Called to order – at 5:15.

In attendance – Holly Edinger, Tinku Khanwalkar, Alejandra, Solar, David Melman, Elizabeth Cichonski (Bethlehem EAC), Liz Hunt, Jennifer Swann

- July Minutes were reviewed and approved

### **Old Business**

- Reports on Goals
  1. Plastics Initiative -- Alejandra
    - a. Alejandra met with Allentown Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste. They suggested working with Nora Goldstein who has a podcast on recycling and composting. She is well informed on local actions and can help us figure out the details. Brett Stout of the Allentown Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste provided the information below on food waste, composting, etc., in addition to the litter cost study separately attached. Alejandra needs time to digest this info and design the program. She will need volunteers to do the final check.
    - b. Liz brought up cost and manpower concerns – ultimately businesses should be motivated to become more green to make this sustainable. Is the proposal providing enough motivation. i.e. we are proposing procedures that businesses that are interested in a green environment are already doing and those that are not won't be motivated to do it.

#### [Landfill Podcast](#)

Nora Goldstein, Editor/Publisher  
BioCycle – The Organics Recycling Authority  
The JG Press, Inc.  
Phone: (610) 967-4135

**Mobile: (484) 866-3832**

#### [BioCycle.net](#)

Ned Foley

### **Two Particular Acres**

[301 Rittenhouse Rd.](#)

[Royersford, PA 19468](#)

[EJF@twoparticularacres.com](#)

(610) 454-9635

(610) 960-0910 (cell)

[http://www.twoparticularacres.com](#)

2. Micro-mobility –
  - a. Resolution (attached) – the EAC approved the resolution to submit to City Council.
  - b. The EAC decided to give the resolution to Joe McMahon who can present the resolution to the mayor and then bring it to City Council
3. Muhlenberg Internship -- Tinku
  - a. Allentown was successful in being selected by the Pennsylvania DEP to participate in developing a greenhouse gas inventory and action plan with funding provided by the U.S. Department of Energy. The work is to be done by a Muhlenberg intern in partnership with the Allentown EAC. Fall will focus on completing the Greenhouse gas inventory. This will include emissions from electric and gas usage in the community (PP&L and UGI to provide), emissions from on road vehicles (Lehigh Valley Planning Commission to provide), emissions related to water and waste water (Lehigh County Authority and Public Works to provide) and emissions related to solid waste (Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste to provide)
  - b. This is good news for the EAC and the city – Tinku will reach out to the mayor to generate a press release. Elizabeth suggested we meet with Ed Gallagher (retired Lehigh professor) to include it in his blog. The goal is to increase community involvement
4. Park Spark Project – Jennnifer
  - a. Jennifer met with Parks and Recreation who agreed to help with the project. A description has been generated; Joe McMahon has stated that he needs more info about the cost effectiveness and alternative approaches;
  - b. Project description will be posted for discussion and comment at the September meeting
5. Community Gardens/Bees – Alejandra
  - a. Main funder has disappeared – searching for another.
  - b. The budget is coming along- has bees and the momentum. (Wanted an 8 foot wood fence but they are out of stock.)

- c. Project will need a new lead next year as Alejandra is moving to Bethlehem and will not be reappointed.
- 6. Sustainability Data and Climate Action Planning – Tinku
  - a. Questionnaire that Holly proposed on sustainability will be sent next year so as not to overwhelm the administration
- 7. EAC Ordinance and Bylaws revisions – Dave
  - a. Just needs to be presented to City Council. Will be added to the requests of the Mayor.
- 8. Food Waste – Alejandra, Jennifer and Holly
  - a. Holly will research Bethlehem and Easton to see how they are handling it.
  - b. Alejandra will wait for Holly's research and review that with Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste.
- 9. Preliminary Review of Allentown Zoning Map – Holly and Liz
  - a. Holly has looked at the map and contacted Irene Woodward – could join the monthly meeting of Tinku and Irene (Director, Allentown Planning and Zoning)
- Reports from EAC Liaisons
  - 1. Parks and Recreation – Jennifer and Tinku
    - Parks and Recreation primarily needs volunteers to help with trash and invasive plants. This is normally provided by Friends of the Allentown parks. Does Allentown EAC have a role?
    - Could Allentown 2030 create an event to help with the park? Tricky because the City wants to hear from the Community Ambassadors rather than telling them what to do.
    - Holly can talk to the Mayor to see what he wants to do and to Friends of the Allentown Parks to see if they are interested in volunteering.
  - 2. Public Works – Liz
    - The City has completed compliance related actions
    - Liz will contact public works about soil donations.
  - 3. City Council – Dave
    - Council is tied up with issues related to community activism regarding the Allentown police
  - 4. Planning Commission – Holly
    - No updates related to EAC matters
  - 5. Bureau of Planning and Zoning – Tinku and Jennifer (3 minutes)
    - 5 year consolidated plan for HUD funds – used by the city after deciding on the best programs to fund. Also there is a county based plan.
    - Temporary employment – need for these workers, city does go to the high schools to promote these jobs and training.
    - Alejandra is working with an organization to help guide and mentor kids into better employment.
    - Need more geographically centered opportunities for education.
    - Homelessness is addressed in the county and city plans.

- Plans include creating additional paths like providing food for boys and girls clubs.

**New Business?**

Proposed – that notes from each of the meetings we attend with the City be summarized and distributed for review before the meeting. We need a place to put these summaries for review.

How will we address equity and justice? This must be included in our 2021 planning goals.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45

Next meeting September 21<sup>st</sup>.