

Allentown EAC Minutes

City of Allentown Public Works Update for the Environmental Advisory Committee September 2020

Compliance

- Regional Flow Management Strategy (RFMS).
 - Beginning to plan for 2021 construction project.
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- Began working on the Long-Term Regional Act 537 Plan – Fall 2020.
 - This plan will cover the planning years: 2025-2050.
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September 21, 2020

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- Welcome and Introductions

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- Tinku Khanwalkar, Holly Edinger, Jennifer Swann, Liz Hunt, Hannah Chiesa, Ray

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Hernandez, Brian Hillard

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- Review and Approval of August Minutes

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- approved

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Old Business

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- Reports on Goals

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1. Plastics Initiative – Alejandra (no update- Alejandra not here)

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2. Micro-mobility – Tinku (2 minutes)

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- a. The resolution was presented and passed City Council at the 9/16 meeting*

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after discussion. The resolution expresses City Council's official support of

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- b. We should possibly connect with CAT about education for motorist and*

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riders. Jennifer Swann is on the board.

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- c. Looking for a micro-mobility study to be done by a possible Muhlenberg*

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Student intern. Looking for a draft of a “job description” for the

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internship by early October. Jennifer and Tinku will draft.

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3. Muhlenberg Internship/Climate Action – Tinku (2 minutes)

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- a. Hanna Chiesa has started the data collection.*

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4. Park Spark Project – Jennifer (2 minutes)

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- a. Jennifer is working with 3 Lehigh U. students on a feasibility proposal for*

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Dept. and he was supportive. There are places in the parks that a

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5. Community Gardens/Bees – Alejandra (2 minutes)

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- a. At a Muhlenberg sustainability community hour that Tinku attended,*

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there was student interest in community gardens. Tinku suggests that we

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should explore this idea as a project with the college. With Alejandra's

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move to Bethlehem, a new EAC lead would be needed to pursue this.

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6. EAC Ordinance and Bylaws revisions – Tinku (2 minutes)

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- a. *City Council needs to review and approve the proposed revisions.*

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Councilman Siegel mentioned there was some legal concern with the

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appointments being made by council vs. mayor. The current ordinance

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states that five positions are appointed by the Mayor and two are

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appointed by City Council. The EAC's suggested revisions were simply

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related to the approval process, not the fundamental authority on

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appointments in the current version of the ordinance. David Melman will

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discuss with City solicitor and Josh Siegel to finalize the proposed

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7. Food Waste – Alejandra, Jennifer and Holly (5 minutes)

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- a. *Keep food out of the trash/ landfill. Healthy way to divert to people who*

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need food.... And then keep waste out of landfill (Jennifer). Netherlands-

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“To Good To Go” is an app. for business owners to line up food with those

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who need. (Ray). <https://toogoodtogo.com/en-us> Businesses prepare too

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much to be safe... and there is loss. Good Samaritan law does apply for

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donated food. Jennifer and Holly will continue to work on this.

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8. Preliminary Review of Allentown Zoning Map – Holly and Liz (5 minutes)

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- a. *Good meeting with City Planner about new zoning code update. We will*

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provide input as needed to reduce the environmental concerns.

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- b. *We should pull together suggestions of stakeholders to be involved.*

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- Reports from EAC Liaisons

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1. Parks and Recreation – Jennifer and Tinku (2 minutes)

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- *Good meeting with Rick at Parks Dept. the Park Clean up on the 26th...*

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we will be at the pavilion. Parks Department will bring info about

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invasives.9am-1pm on Saturday.

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2. Public Works – Liz (2 minutes)

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- *Public Works sent along an update report for us to review.*

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- *Pick Up Pennsylvania event Sept – Nov. 1 for litter clean-up. There*

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was discussion of EAC support for this. In light of coronavirus

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concerns, the EAC concluded that it cannot help to organize an event

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this year but could include it as a 2021 goal.

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- *Water quality sampling taking place*

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3. City Council – Dave (2 minutes)

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- *Update from Councilman Siegel... passed micro mobility resolution*

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and had good discussion amongst council. Trail connections and long-

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term plan for connections to regional system. We will clear-up the

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bylaws/ ordinance. Looking forward to more co-planning with council

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and EAC around environmental justice.

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4. Planning Commission – Holly (2 minutes)

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1. *No update.*

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5. Bureau of Planning and Zoning – Tinku, Holly and Jennifer (3 minutes)

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1. *See above notes.*

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2. Zoning intern from Lehigh U. is working on the Sustainable

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New Business?

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- 2021 Planning Session--- TBD

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- Plan for 2021 Pick Up Pennsylvania event. Can we have a block cleanup or

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something organized?

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- Co-plan with City Council on 2021 Goals (high performance buildings, sustainable

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infrastructure, grants for efforts, trails/ parks, etc.)

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- 2021 goal to improve communication... maybe work with Hannah about

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Allentown Vision 2030. Ray suggested more and better education about our

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trash and recycling programs in the city. And do more online to promote and

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educate...

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“sustainability is a problem of the people’ Communication is critical.

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- <https://amsterdamsmartcity.com/projects>

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- <https://smartdublin.ie/about/>

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Public Works Update for the Environmental Advisory Committee
September 2020

Compliance

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 - Beginning to plan for 2021 construction project.
- Interim Act 537 Draft Plan was submitted to the DEP on 09/4/20.
- Began working on the Long-Term Regional Act 537 Plan – Fall 2020.
 - This plan will cover the planning years: 2025-2050.
- Air Quality Fee Schedule Amendments Act 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 127.
 - Environmental Quality Board (EQB) has reviewed and approved, 07/21/2020.
 - The proposal included a new annual maintenance fee for both kinds of permits, a new fee for asbestos notifications, and an increase in the existing operating permit fees.
 - Starting in 2021, annual maintenance fee increases from \$375 to \$2,000.
 - Renewal fee increases from \$375 to \$2,100. There is an escalator
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Adjourned at 6:38pm

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