

Allentown EAC October 12, 2020
5:15 PM via ZOOM
Meeting Minutes

- Welcome and Introductions

Attendees: Jennifer Swann, Tinku Khanwalkar, Holly Edinger

Missing members: Dave Melman, Liz Hunt, Alejandra (resignation pending due to her move to Bethlehem)

First item of business: Motion by J. Swann for the nomination of Holly Edinger to Secretary. Voted by all three and approved.

Discussion about open positions and possible open position. **We need to find two new members.**

- Review and Approval of September Minutes: Approved.

Old Business

- Reports on Goals

1. Plastics Initiative – Alejandra
 - a. Her pending resignation will impact this effort. Who will take on this effort? Is Ann Saruman still working on this?
2. Micro-mobility – Tinku
 - a. Good progress with the adoption of the resolution, a job description for an internship position and next steps to find an intern to work on this. Move this to Muhlenberg this month to post for an intern.
 - b. Possible Lehigh U. intern to look regionally at this issue. J. Swann will adjust job description to reflect a regional analysis.
3. Muhlenberg Internship/Climate Action – Tinku
 - a. Hanna the intern is collecting data and this is moving forward. This effort is really connected to PA DEP and global effort.
4. Park Spark Project – Jennifer (2 minutes)
 - a. Lehigh U. intern and staff are investigating biodegradable bags and evaluating costs. Research is ongoing. Looking at methane-based power generation at landfills to better understand the process. Need to estimate number of dogs and amt. of waste. This is difficult because a large proportion of park visitors, particularly at Cedar Creek and Little Lehigh Parkway are not Allentown residents. May possibly need to some random surveys at the parks.
5. Community Gardens/Bees – Investigate Muhlenberg College involvement with Friends of the Allentown Parks.
 - a. Should EAC be involved? Or foster this in some way in the spring? We will get an update from Tina Amato from Health Bureau on status of current gardens.
6. EAC Ordinance and Bylaws revisions – David
 - a. Update via email from Dave that these are being facilitated by city solicitor.
7. Food Waste – Jennifer and Holly
 - a. Holly and Jennifer will visit Second Harvest to determine where to fill the gap.

8. Preliminary Review of Allentown Zoning Map – Holly and Liz

- a. Stakeholders needed for the Zoning update and we suggest some folks to include. EAC Chair will finalize the list with input from EAC and submit it to Planning Dept.

- Reports from EAC Liaisons

1. Parks and Recreation – Jennifer and Tinku
 1. Had a call with Rick and discussed the SUCCESSFUL invasive plant cleanup.
 2. Can we promote the removal of poison hemlock more?
2. Public Works – Liz – submitted via email. Note that the amount of recycling has gone up significantly. More posts and promotion from EAC on this in 2021.
3. City Council – Dave– submitted update via email
4. Planning Commission – Holly: nothing on the Planning agenda relevant
5. Bureau of Planning and Zoning – Tinku, Holly and Jennifer- previously discussed.
 1. Planning dept. is interested in micro-mobility effort.
 2. St. Elmo Street land- redevelopment discussion.
 3. The Climate Action Plan will have to play into the LVPC regional plan and may slow us down.

New Business/ Grass Catcher

- 2021 Planning Session--- January date TBD
 - Plan for 2021 Pick Up Pennsylvania event.
 - Co-plan with City Council on 2021 Goals (high performance buildings, sustainable infrastructure, grants for efforts, trails/ parks, etc.)
 - 2021 goal to improve communication... maybe work with Hannah about Allentown Vision 2030. Ray suggested more and better education about our trash and recycling programs in the city. And do more online to promote and educate...
- “sustainability is a problem of the people’ Communication is critical.
 - <https://amsterdamsmartcity.com/projects>
 - <https://smartdublin.ie/about/>

Adjourned at 6:42