

Minutes
Allentown EAC Meeting
December 14, 2020. 5:15 PM
Via WebEx

Attendance: Tinku Khanwalkar (chair), David Melman (co-chair), Jennifer Swann, Holly Edinger
Guests: Matt Tuerk, Dieter Kretschy, Francesca Jones & Lacey Pasco & Jess Bice from Muhlenberg

Welcome and Introductions

Review and Approval of November Minutes- Motion to approve by Dave. Approved by all.

Old Business

- Reports on Goals
 1. Plastics Initiative – Tinku- no update at this time
 2. Micro-mobility – Tinku- We have an intern from Muhlenberg now working on this. Her name is Jess Bice and Jennifer will coordinate with her.
 3. Muhlenberg Internship/Climate Action – Muhlenberg intern, Hannah, has done the data collection and she will submit it to ICLEI and city planning dept. This can be updated every two years and an ICLEI membership will facilitate that. We should look to “subscribe” to ICLEI.
 4. Park Spark Project – Jennifer- Lehigh students are finalizing feasibility report and work can continue in 2021 based on this study and city’s support.
 5. Community Gardens/Bees – Perhaps a Muhlenberg student will take this on for 2021 since they have 2 empty hives. EAC will work with the college on this.
 - a. RJ Fellows program at Muhlenberg has students do senior projects and this may align with a community garden project. (Jess suggested this)
 6. EAC Ordinance and Bylaws revisions – David Melman- City Council is supposed to be putting this on the agenda... but Josh has not put it on the agenda yet. Tinku will speak to the Mayor in January if Josh does not move it forward.
 7. Food Waste – Jennifer and Holly – Waiting for restaurants to be operating normally, again. We can work with Muhlenberg on what their plan looks like. Francesca will look into with the food provider in 2021.
 8. Preliminary Review of Allentown Zoning Map – Holly and Jennifer- The map was looked at and we met with the city’s consultants for the zoning update. We will continue to work with the city and the consultants to ensure our input is included in the new zoning code.
- Reports from EAC Liaisons
 1. Parks and Recreation – no update
 2. Public Works – Liz- no update. We should look to have in-person meetings in 2021 to build the relationship and implement climate action plan.

3. City Council – Dave – waiting to hear back from Josh Siegel about the updated ordinance.
4. Planning Commission – Holly (2 minutes) – nothing involving the EAC
5. Bureau of Planning and Zoning – Tinku is still working with city planning department. The city is working on the PA Sustainable Communities certification. We need to look to publicize this and the good things that are happening in Allentown.

New Business

- 2021 Planning Session--- January 10 — decision needed on location and time
 - Plan for 2021 Pick Up Pennsylvania event. Can we have a block cleanup or something organized?
 - 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
 - Sustainable Business Survey and Recognition Program? “sustainability is a problem of the people” Communication is critical.
 - <https://amsterdamsmartcity.com/projects>
 - <https://smartdublin.ie/about/>
 - Evaluate street lights and update to LED... talk to public works about status
 - Recycle-mania (college competition)- talk to LVAIC
- Ideas presented by Lacey Pasco from Muhlenberg College
 - We want to promote Allentown as an innovative and sustainable city, leading the way to help support all residents, businesses, and the natural environment.
 - In general, for Muhlenberg college, we need flyers advertising the EAC council meetings and your initiatives/ concept statement etc.
 - Create a QR code for interested young adults ^ (Instagram, Face book and Twitter)
 - Work with the college and career center to do a virtual internship(s) in January I know that a lot of companies have advertised to do this - they can be for short hours or longer.
 - Having an in-person presentation for Muhlenberg students during the 2021 school year. Approximately 1,500 students are returning. Most students want to get involved and do things in person! Having the local council get involved would be great to set up in-person programs.

- I believe Fraternities and Sororities at Muhlenberg need to have a certain number of community service hours. Also, Sunrise Muhlenberg is another club we could reach out to. (sororities need community service hours)
- Communicate with the Muhlenberg Sustainability Committee