

Allentown EAC Minutes
May 10, 2021
5:15 PM via Zoom

Welcome and Introductions

- Attendees EAC Members: Tinku Khanwalkar, Jennifer Swann, David Melman, Dieter Kretschy, Holly Edinger
- Other attendees: Ann Saurman (City Solid Waste), Lacey Pasco, John Stanley (pending new EAC member), Caroline Oetting (City lead for Earth Upraising)

Minutes from April 2021 meeting approved

Old Business

2021 Goals Reports

1. Waste Minimization/Food Waste (Tinku): A job description was developed for an internship and shared with members. Should it be more focused scope so that the study is smaller and work can start sooner? Food reclamation pilot program with Giant and in-town food pantries. We will redo the scope to limit the job description and Holly will investigate funding for a full food waste study. Members agree to change the scope.
2. Micro-mobility (Jennifer): Intern is working on it and will submit a report in the coming weeks.
3. Climate Action Inventory and CDP Questionnaire (Tinku) Tinku reviewed the inventory items and classifications at this meeting. Tinku sent both documents to the city and a meeting has been scheduled with city staff on both documents in June.
4. Greenhouse Gas Inventory (Tinku) Tinku noted that the full report is still being finalized and should be posted along with the PowerPoint of the inventory. We need assistance in further publicizing these documents.
5. Park Spark Project (Jennifer) This is currently on hold.. It will continue after an on-site location at Lehigh University has been selected.
6. EAC Earth Day Event (Holly) We had about 23 people attend. We created a volunteer listing that included internship. Send listing to sororities/ fraternities. Holly and Lacey will work together to share info with students for fall- maybe an on-campus event.
7. Rain Gardens (Muhlenberg -- Sadie)- no update for now.
8. Create a public repository of sustainability data (Tinku and city)- no update
9. Build social media following – launch and use IG (Jon/ Sadie)- Jon will lead this effort.
10. Sustainable Pennsylvania Communities Certification (Tinku)- pending city finalization
11. Sustainable Business Survey and Recognition Program – on hold (Tinku)
12. Get more Council input on EAC activities (Dave/ Tinku) Tinku asked Josh to be more supportive and provide a platform for our virtual meetings. Ann will ask the IT dept. Dave will talk to Josh about joining EAC meetings more regularly.

13. Get a budget for the EAC (Dave) This will be included in the upcoming budget and we should have access to dollars after that passes
14. Invasive Species Event, neighborhoods and parks: No update for now. Friends of the Parks is not interested in this type of event at this time due to COVID. Maybe we should do a litter pick-up organized with students again again.
15. Litter Pick Up- near Good Shepard at the Trout Creek Park Association owned land that is vacant and is a mess. We were asked to help with the cleanup on the property on Cleveland Street and EAC will support this as much as possible.
16. Preliminary Review of Allentown Zoning Map (Holly) No update.

Reports from EAC Liaisons

1. Muhlenberg College (Lacey)- will have more time next semester but their garden will keep going this summer.
2. Parks and Recreation (Jennifer and Tinku)- trash cleanups are always good. Rick will send the list of the planned clean-ups. Maybe we could have snacks and a table to share information with cleanup volunteers? Jordan GW project is starting in June that will run east into the city. Percy Rue and MLK master plans are underway.
3. Public Works- Cost of Litter report was reviewed by Ann "Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful" studies, awareness events and cleanups are ongoing. Jessica Armbruster is the new lead. The Litter Report is under "Publications". Allentown's program "Keep Allentown Beautiful" under the states program Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, but we need to revive that effort with volunteers and community.
4. City Council – See update above from Dave and Tinku
5. Planning Commission (Holly)- nothing EAC related this month
6. Bureau of Planning and Zoning (Tinku, Holly and Jennifer): no update

New Business

- Platform for future EAC meetings... City should provide.
- Commitment to 100% Renewable Energy (using Mark Pinsley Proposal as basis for discussion) Mark is trying to get the county to move to 100% Renewable Energy. Should we encourage the city to do the same? Let's consider and discuss.
- Global Covenant of Mayors: Allentown is not a member we will discuss more at the next meeting.