

Allentown EAC minutes
August 9, 2021
5:15 PM via Zoom

Members in attendance: Maria Ocasio, Tinku Khanwalkar, Dieter Kretschy, Holly Edinger, Jon Stanley, Joshua Siegel

Guest: Jeremy Taylor, Julie Thomases

Welcome and Introductions

July Minutes were duly approved

Old Business

- **2021 Goals Reports**

1. Waste Minimization/Food Waste – Holly Edinger/Maria Ocasio
 - a. Maria has a list of food sources that are all within the City boundaries.
<https://allentownpa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5f01d828998448f49272fda2bac8be91>
 - b. Holly and Maria will try to start calls with stores about what they are currently doing.
 - c. Holly needs to post the intern description to colleges.
2. Micro-mobility – Jennifer Swann/Tinku Khanwalkar
 - a. Jess Bice finished her report to pass on to the next intern.
 - b. Fundamental conclusion: City should move forward with infrastructure to support bike share.
 - c. Members should review this report and decide if it should be made public.
3. Climate Action Inventory and CDP Questionnaire
 - a. Subgroup (John, Stanley, Maria, Dieter and Tinku)
 - b. CDP Questionnaire went out from Tinku/ EAC/ City. The city helped to complete this big report.
 - c. City had to do a Climate Action Report for DEP and this is comprised of much of what EAC has been pushing. Need to promote.
 - d. Climate Action Inventory- subcommittee of the EAC developed this and we will submit it to the city for their review/ consideration.
4. Park Spark Project – Jennifer
 - a. Rudy Shankar is now also working on this project with one of his graduate students.
5. Litter Removal Project at 401 Cleveland- Tinku and Jennifer
 - a. Finally obtained the lease agreement, Trout Creek Park Association and city have lease that requires the property to be used as a park or a playground. Trout Creek Park Association does not exist,

- b. We will wait for the city to determine legal action.
- 6. Rain Gardens (Muhlenberg -- Sadie) – no discussion as Sadie was not present
- 7. Improve the posts on Facebook to link to the various new documents on the EAC City of Allentown website.
 - a. Holly will draft out a timeline for the next 10 weeks
 - b. Over few years City will be doing an update of the city website. Josh will help ensure that EAC has a good web page on new city site.
- 8. Sustainable Pennsylvania Communities Certification (Tinku)
Remains on hold -Irene has a new intern
- 9. Sustainable Business Survey and Recognition Program – on hold (Tinku)
- 10. Get more Council support and budget for EAC activities (Dave)
 - a) Josh Seigel attended and will advocate for us to get a budget and continue to promote the EAC work.
- 11. Invasive Species/ Clean-up Events- neighborhoods and parks.
 - a. Jennifer will talk to parks about what type of event for the park
 - b. Jennifer Armbruster for a litter cleanup event (Holly will explore this with a community partner)
- 12. Preliminary Review of Allentown Zoning Map – Holly
 - a. Had first meeting with the consultant
- **Reports from EAC Liaisons**
 - a. Muhlenberg College – Lacey/Sadie -- no report
 - b. Parks and Recreation – Jennifer /Tinku
 - i. No meeting
 - c. Public Works – Tinku
 - i. No meeting
 - d. City Council – Josh in attendance
 - i. Josh reported that the American Rescue Plan dollars will be programmed and the draft proposal from the Mayor is under consideration. It will be presented at City Council in the coming weeks.
 - ii. Tinku will ask Leonard for a draft copy.
 - e. Planning Commission – Holly
 - i. Not much that involves Allentown EAC input
 - ii. Holly reached out to Shade Tree Commission and will attend the next meeting.

- f. Bureau of Planning and Zoning – Tinku, Holly and Jennifer
 - i. No meeting this month with planning dept.

New Business

- 1. Platform and/or place for future EAC meetings
 - a. Josh and city council may ask the Parks Department to make their building available.
- 2. Dieter will gather data from the Las Vegas Waste expo and will report back.
- 3. Community Solar- no legislation has been passed. City could do a Solar Co-Op if the municipality partners with Solar United Neighbors to develop an RFP and establish a city owned solar project on behalf of the residents that sign-up.
- 4. City Solar Project- Dieter is initiating a meeting/ project
- 5. Education program for high school program regarding litter/ cleanup with the ASD Foundation for in-school suspension candidates.
- 6. Porous Paving: City, per Josh, is looking to incorporate porous paving in the resurfacing of alleys.

Meeting adjourned 6:42