

Allentown Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2021
5:15 PM via Zoom

Members in attendance: Tinku Khanwalkar (chairperson), Dieter Kretschy, Holly Edinger, Jon Stanley, Maria Ocasio, Jennifer Swann, Dave Melman

Guests: Josh Siegel (2nd half), Marsha Akoto (Lehigh U.), Jacob Kidd (jkidd@muhlenberg.edu), Jeremy Taylor (jeremy@somaxhtc.com), Maddie Tschauner (Lehigh U.), Lacey Pasco

Welcome and Introductions

Review and Approval of September Minutes (approved)

Old Business

1. Waste Minimization/Food Waste – Holly Edinger/Maria Ocasio/ Jakob Kidd
 - a. Jakob contacted some businesses and many are donating already. Talked about getting a biodigester to serve the city restaurants. Holly, Lacey and Jakob will meet about other sources and the distribution places. Include Jeremy in this project.
2. Micro-mobility – Jennifer Swann/Tinku Khanwalkar
 - a. Per Jennifer, CAT helps support the Bethlehem bike share with the Library. Problem remains that we don't have bike lanes/ facilities for a lot of bikes. We could look at what the Bethlehem Library does and see if we can mirror that program. Can this be a new internship for 2022? (Holly to look into this)
3. Climate Action Inventory and CDP Questionnaire (Tinku)
 - a. We (Tinku) we will hold off to clean this up and then bring it forward in 2022 for the city administration to use/ follow/ promote.
4. Allentown Civilian Climate Corps (Tinku)
 - a. Promise Neighborhood working with members of EAC to create a feasibility study for a grass roots outreach plan. Maria will talk with PennFuture about interactions with this planning effort.
5. Park Spark Project – Done
6. Clean-Up Events
 - a. 401 Cleveland Clean-Up on 10/23, Parks Dept will be there to help
 - b. Big Brothers Big Sisters- Jon is working on this.
7. Reduce Litter to Reduce Crime: Lehigh students will help us develop a system to do more of these events and ensure they have more impact than just the one day of clean. Plastic reuse effort at Lehigh University needs support of graduate students.

This could bring the Allentown city litter clean up to match with the reuse program. Jennifer, Dieter and Tinku will follow up with graduate students from Lehigh U.

8. Create a public repository of sustainability data including Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Climate Action Inventory, Community Sustainability Certification, CDP Responses, etc. (Lacey and Holly).
9. Build social media following (promote Allentown Vision 2030, education about our trash and recycling programs, invasive species, build-out to include internships. Talk to city about better posting of the link to FB Page. Create a QR code for EAC. Use that Neighborhood app/ site). (Lacey/Holly)
10. Sustainable Pennsylvania Communities Certification (Tinku)
 - a. City is solving IT challenge and will post outcome
11. Sustainable Business Survey and Recognition Program – (Dieter)
 - a. Dieter, Julie, Jennifer and Jeremy met and developed parameters and selected the first winner. This will be announced along with opening for nominations for other businesses. Communication will start with Morning Call and City Planning Director.
12. Preliminary Review of Allentown Zoning Map – Holly and Jennifer
 - a. No update

Reports from EAC Liaisons

- Muhlenberg College – Lacey/Sadie
 - Head of Sustainability at Muhlenberg retired.
- Parks and Recreation – Jennifer /Tinku
- Public Works – Tinku – nothing new here
- City Council – Dave
 - Budget discussions will start and our budget will be a proposed amendment.
- Planning Commission – Holly
- Bureau of Planning and Zoning – Tinku, Holly and Jennifer

New Business

- Platform for future EAC meetings (on hold until next administration)
- Energy Efficiency Program for Low-income rental units (Julie Thomases and Tinku) – will be wrapped into the civilian climate corps effort
- Dieter report on food waste information from Las Vegas Waste expo
- Solar Cooperatives (Tinku) – Solar United Neighbors looking to put together a project in Allentown. There is a presentation at the Dec. 8th Green Drinks by CCL.
- Porous Paving (Jennifer)- City currently promotes reduction of impervious surface as a stormwater management approach. Could EAC do more promote/ policy that would

require pervious surfaces for new development and new street/ alley paving? (2022 goal?)- Dave Melmen will keep this in discussion for city.

- There is a food waste symposium at Muhlenberg on October 24th
 - “Hunger Free Campuses”