



**Allentown**

435 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, Pa. 18101

## **Minutes - Final**

### **Environmental Advisory Council**

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**Monday, November 8, 2021**

**5:15 PM**

**Zoom**

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**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84494565954?pwd=OFIHaTltQmNvWE1VcEluV2Z3bDIjUT09>**

**Meeting ID: 844 9456 5954**

**Passcode: 206364**

**One tap mobile**

**+13017158592,,84494565954#,,,,\*206364# US (Washington DC)**

**+13126266799,,84494565954#,,,,\*206364#**

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

Guests: Matt Tuerk, Ge Xu (Lehigh U.) Marsha Akoto (Lehigh U.), Maddie Tschauner (Lehigh U.), Shanice Clarke (resident), Jacob Kidd (jkidd@muhlenberg.edu), Jeremy Taylor (jeremy@somaxhtc.com), Julie Thomases (resident)

Welcome and Introductions: See above

Approval of November Minutes: Passes

Decision on December Meeting: No meeting needed.

Date for Strategic Planning Session:

- We will include Julie Thomases to bring input on Civilian Climate Core as representative of Promise Neighborhood
- Date for the planning meeting will be circulated via email.

Old Business

2021 Goals Reports

1. Waste Minimization/Food Waste – Holly Edinger/Dieter Kretschy/ Jackob Kidd
  - a. Jacob finished calls with grocery stores and found that many are already donating what they can to local resources/ food kitchens.
  - b. There is waste food/ non-edible that is probably going into the landfill.
  - c. Look to find a way to gather food waste from local institutes and keep it out of landfill. Possibly use it as pig feed or other farm resource.
  - d. Installation of an anaerobic digester to serve the institutes of the city, expand on the city's wastewater treatment plant (LCA). LCA is interested but, the economics don't work to haul waste to the system. Add this to 2022 goals.
2. Allentown Civilian Climate Corps (Tinku)
  - a. Feasibility Study is being developed by Promise Neighborhood to have a neighborhood engagement corp. that would support clean and safe neighborhoods.
  - b. Possible Americorp employees that would/could do this work.
  - c. Lehigh University Graduate students are establishing guidelines for community based litter cleanups, develop tools to have more cleanups, identify materials needed, how to engage Allentown residents who may have language/ free time challenges, and determine how to engage with Citizen Climate Corp.
  - d. Penn State LV Chance is the sustainability group at PSULV and they may be a good partner.
3. Litter/Invasive Plant Removal Events
  - a. 401 Cleveland- Neighborhood based cleanup where we tried to connect and did a lot of cleanup with the support of the Public Works employees
  - b. Big Brothers Big Sisters- To be held Nov. 13, 11am-3pm, 41 S. Carlisle Street, Allentown. Jon is helping get support/ equipment from city.
4. Create a public repository of sustainability data and build social media following
  - a. Could we have a monthly blurb on/ in a news outlet to share progress of EAC or talk about a topic that we are working on?
  - b. Monthly blogs... could feed news to news outlets, then

5. Sustainable Pennsylvania Communities Certification (Tinku)
  - a. City finished the review and Irene will share it with EAC
6. Sustainable Business Survey and Recognition Program – (Dieter)
  - a. Another meeting is planned. Look for a 2022 “launch”
7. Preliminary Review of Allentown Zoning Map – Holly and Jennifer
  - a. No update

#### Reports from EAC Liaisons

- a. Muhlenberg College – Lacey/Sadie
- b. Parks and Recreation – Jennifer /Tinku - met about the 401 Cleveland Cleanup
- c. Public Works – Tinku- mostly also about 401 Cleveland Cleanup
- d. City Council – Dave- no update (Dave not here)
- e. Planning Commission – Holly- no update
- f. Bureau of Planning and Zoning – Tinku, Holly and Jennifer

#### New Business

- Litter education and community engagement – Dieter is talking with Baum Art School and possibly middle schools to bring litter prevention lessons.
- Solar Cooperatives (Tinku) – Solar United Neighbors will make a presentation about success stories. Green Drinks November meeting hosted by Citizen's Climate Lobby at 6:30
- Energy Efficiency Program for Low-income rental units (Julie Thomases and Tinku)- work to be done through Civilian Climate Corp.

#### For 2022:

Organics waste plan for the city- beyond food recovery  
2022 Cleanup Plan- when, where, with what partners?  
Data Repository/ Blog/  
Sustainable Business Survey and Recognition Program  
Support work of the Civilian Climate Corp.

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Review and Approval of October Minutes**

[15-4710](#) Allentown EAC October 2021 Minutes

#### Attachments:

[Allentown EAC October 2021 Minutes](#)

- **Decision on December Meeting**
- **Date for Strategic Planning Session**

#### Old Business

- **2021 Goals Reports**

1. **Waste Minimization/Food Waste – Holly Edinger/Maria Ocasio**
  2. **Allentown Civilian Climate Corps (Tinku)**
  3. **Litter/Invasive Plant Removal Events**
    - a. **401 Cleveland**
    - b. **Big Brothers Big Sisters**
    - c. **Parks**
  4. **Create a public repository of sustainability data including Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Climate Action Inventory, Community Sustainability Certification, CDP Responses, etc. (Lacey).**
  5. **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)**
    - a. **Recommendations to the shade tree commission at next meeting.**
    - b. **Recommend meeting with Chis Brown**
  6. **Sustainable Pennsylvania Communities Certification (Tinku)**
  7. **Sustainable Business Survey and Recognition Program – (Dieter)**
  8. **Preliminary Review of Allentown Zoning Map – Holly and Jennifer**
- **Reports from EAC Liaisons**
    - a. **Muhlenberg College – Lacey/Sadie**
    - b. **Parks and Recreation – Jennifer /Tinku**
    - c. **Public Works – Tinku**
    - d. **City Council – Dave**
    - e. **Planning Commission – Holly**
    - i. **Meeting with Chis Brown**
    - f. **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)
- Dieter report on food waste information from Las Vegas Waste expo
- Solar Cooperatives (Tinku)
- Litter education and community engagement
- Porous Paving (Jennifer)