



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

Environmental Advisory Council

Monday, January 10, 2022

5:15 PM

Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83865583441?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83865583441?pwd=ZG1HUWxuVXJlQmRtTGZlMUx0eVNWZz09)

pwd=ZG1HUWxuVXJlQmRtTGZlMUx0eVNWZz09

Meeting ID: 838 6558 3441

Passcode: 996786

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

Guests: Matt Tuerk, Jeremy Taylor (jeremy@somaxhtc.com), Julie Thomases (resident), Susan Dalandan (Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council), Grace Kennedy (Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council), Jessica Armbruster (City of Allentown Education Manager), Ann Saurman (Manager, City of Allentown Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste), Leo Rooney (Heirloom Strategies), Lacey Pasco (Muhlenberg student), Kyle Ropsky (Muhlenberg student)

Welcome and Introductions: See above

Approval of November Minutes: Passes

Review and Approval of EAC Report on 2021 Accomplishments: Passes

Discussion of 2022 Goals:

- Drive greater transparency and accountability in the City on environmental matters
 - o Work with City staff on a dashboard on climate actions and other sustainability metrics
 - o Continue to lead disclosures to CDP on GHG metrics – Tinku noted that last year's disclosures are available on EAC's website
 - o Continue to lead disclosures to ACEEE on energy efficiency metrics – Last year's is available on EAC website
- Drive action to address environmental justice in Allentown
 - o Continue to work with PNLV to establish a civilian climate corps in Allentown that will focus on clean and safe neighborhoods (to include building community to address litter and plastics in waterways, implement stream buffers and community gardens, engage in tree plantings, etc.) – overview of initiative was provided by Leo Rooney and Tinku Khanwalkar
 - o Research and make recommendations on improving access to open space in marginalized neighborhoods
 - o Research and make recommendations on ways to address food justice while reducing the City's carbon footprint – Tinku explained that EAC's research in 2021 demonstrated that excess food in Allentown is largely already being donated, so we may look into using waste food for pig feed
 - o Research and make recommendations on ways to address tree equity in Allentown
- Promote Environmental Education and Awareness in Allentown
 - o Develop and implement a sustainable business recognition program in Allentown – the suggestion was made to find additional ways to raise environmental awareness among businesses in Allentown
 - o Assist in implementing programs for children and youth to learn about the social and environmental impacts of litter and how to reduce trash – Susan Dalandan suggested providing environmental programming as part of the summer meals campaign; Jessica Armbruster described her litter education program that she runs as part of the Summer in the Parks program
 - o Create and foster more social media engagement
 - o Partner with more community organizations on environmental initiatives – Lacey Pasco suggested that the EAC participate in Muhlenberg's Earth Day on April 22nd; Ann Saurman will involve the EAC in the City's Earth Day programming on April 23rd
 - o Continue to lead networking events with other EACs
 - o Raise awareness on poison hemlock and mile-a-minute weed
 - o Plan and implement a roadshow on choosing green electricity – Tinku noted that 100%

renewable electricity can be cheaper than others and it is very easy to switch by going to papowerswitch.com

- Drive Other Environmental Sustainability Actions
 - o Research and make recommendations on banning single use plastics
 - o Research and make recommendations on requiring new buildings to be net zero – Tinku noted that the new Sustainable Energy Fund Building in Schnecksville is net zero and it would be wonderful if this information could be more widely promoted in the City and incentives developed for similar levels of energy efficiency
 - o Promote solar panels for Allentown businesses and residents – Tinku noted the efforts to start up a solar cooperative in the Lehigh Valley
 - o Provide input to City's stormwater management

- **Welcome and introductions**

- **Review and approval of November minutes**

[15-4817](#) Allentown EAC November 2021 Minutes

Attachments: [Allentown EAC November 2021 Minutes](#)

- **Review and approval of 2021 Accomplishments**

[15-4818](#) Allentown Environmental Advisory Council 2021 Accomplishments

Attachments: [Allentown Environmental Advisory Council 2021 Accomplishments](#)

- **Open Discussion of EAC's goals for 2022**