



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

Environmental Advisory Council

Monday, July 11, 2022

5:15 PM

Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

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

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

Meeting ID: 838 6558 3441

Passcode: 996786

Members in attendance

Maria Ocasio, Tinku Khanwalkar, David Melman Dieter Kretschy, Jess Bice, Matt Tuerk, Holly Edinger, Jon Stanley

- Welcome and Introductions
- June Minutes were duly approved
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Old Business

- 2021 Goals Reports
 1. Waste Minimization/Food Waste – Holly Edinger/Maria Ocasio
 - a. Maria has a list of food sources and food recipients which needs to be checked with the map of Allentown to confirm they are all within the City boundaries.
<https://allentownpa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5f01d828998448f49272fda2bac8be91>
 - b. Intern is doing work with our congressmen and will not be joining us to work on this project. Will consider looking for a new intern from Muhlenberg in the fall. Maria will continue to lead the project
 2. Micro-mobility – Jennifer Swann/Tinku Khanwalkar
 - a. Challenge for the next intern is funding.
 - b. Jess Bice is working on completing a report and collating the documents to pass on to the next intern
 3. Climate Action Inventory and CDP Questionnaire
 - a. Subgroup (John, Stanley, Maria, Dieter and Tinku) met once and will meet again – goal is to generate an inventory of those things the City has implemented or is in the process of implementing, those things being considered for implementation, and those things that have not been considered but should be.
 - b. Most on the inventory came from a variety of sources including Allentown's previous responses to various questionnaires and the Allentown Vision 2030.
 - c. Allentown is in the process of completing its response to the CDP questionnaire. It is a very detailed questionnaire that may be useful in driving climate actions and informing the public about all that the city is doing related to climate change.
 4. Park Spark Project – Jennifer
 - a. Progress is being made
 - b. Educating the public to use it properly is the issue
 5. Litter Removal Project at 401 Cleveland -- Tinku and Jennifer
 - a. Finally obtained the lease agreement for the property – specifies it is leased to the city for one dollar a year (if Trout Creek Association asks for it).
 - b. Lease requires the property to be used as a park or a playground. Current use of the property as a dump without City enforcement against it is in breach of the lease. Under Paragraph 7 Allentown is responsible for the clean-up which Allentown has periodically done. However, Allentown has failed to generate community buy-in to stop the dumping. Allentown give written notice if they intend to get out of the lease.
 - c. Holly noted that the City of Philadelphia had a dumping problem and put a split rail fence around it which deterred people dumping there. Should the EAC recommend this to the City?
 - d. Following extensive discussion the decision was made to wait until the new administration is in place and to see what they would like to do. Matt Tuerk advised that we continue to press for action.

City has a department for outreach that should be addressing it.

e. David will draft a letter to the city of Allentown advising that the city follow its obligations under the lease. We will review and finalize at the next meeting. And send a copy of the letter to the Trout Creek Association

6. Rain Gardens (Muhlenberg -- Sadie) – no discussion as Sadie was not present

7. Create a public repository of sustainability data including Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Climate Action Inventory, Community Sustainability Certification, CDP Responses, etc. (Lacey) – no discussion as Lacey was not present.

8. 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. members are creeping up
- b. need pictures of recent floods to post (send them to Holly)
- c. sharing things that reflect social equity – tree equity score.org

The EAC will discuss making recommendations to the shade tree commission at next meeting.

Recommend meeting with Chis Brown

9. Sustainable Pennsylvania Communities Certification (Tinku)

Remains on hold -Irene has a new intern

10. Sustainable Business Survey and Recognition Program – on hold (Tinku)

11. Get more Council input on EAC activities (Dave)

- a) Tried to get Josh Seigel to join the meetings. David talks to Josh frequently
- b) David will attend the next city council meeting (Wednesday 21st) to get city council input

12. Invasive Species Events- neighborhoods and parks. Maybe a Poison Hemlock contest on social media (Jennifer/ Holly)

Jessica Armbruster is interested in a keep Allentown beautiful event. Holly and Jennifer will work on this

13. Get a budget for the EAC (Dave – 2 minutes)

Dave is optimistic that this will come through. He is continuing the discussions with Josh.

14. Preliminary Review of Allentown Zoning Map – Holly and Jennifer

Awaiting report from the consultant on their preliminary review

- 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. Primarily discussed the trout creek issue with Ann Sauerman and has been working extensively with Public Works on the CDP questionnaire response
- d. City Council – Dave
 - i. Did not attend last meeting. Will attend next meeting and report back
- e. Planning Commission – Holly
 - i. Not much that involves Allentown EAC input

- ii. Recommend meeting with Chis Brown
- f. Bureau of Planning and Zoning – Tinku, Holly and Jennifer
 - i. Discussion focused on Trout Creek property and CDP questionnaire response

New Business

- 1. Platform for future EAC meetings
 - a. Cannot use City of Allentown virtual platform as that requires an Allentown city email address
 - b. Still looking for a place to meet in person.
 - c. Friends of the Allentown Parks building is not available as the conference room is being used for storage
 - d. Muhlenberg college is a possibility. Would need to check with Lacey or Sadie on how best to make that happen
 - e. The decision was made to wait for the next administration and meet on zoom until then
- 2. Commitment to 100% Renewable Energy (using Mark Pinsley Proposal as basis for discussion)?
 - a. This will be included in our conversations around the climate action inventory
- 3. Dieter will be attending the Las Vegas Waste expo and will report back on food waste.

Meeting adjourned 6:50

- **Welcome and introductions**
- **Review and approval of June minutes**

[15-5168](#) EAC Meeting Minutes 6-13-2022

Attachments: [EAC Meeting Minutes 6-13-2022](#)

Old Business

- **Reports from EAC/Friends leads on goals**

[15-5169](#) Allentown EAC Goals and Leads Version June 13

Attachments: [Allentown EAC Goals and Leads Version June 13](#)

New Business

Decision on meeting at City Hall with Zoom Option

Decision on EAC Interim Chair for September, October and November