

Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting of Allentown Environmental Advisory Council
February 27th 2023 5:15 PM

City Hall 5th Floor Conference Room or Via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81304587086?pwd=VHdsUW9PdDAzZC9XdHdzRVhVSIBaZz09>

Meeting ID: 838 6558 3441

Passcode: 996786

Members Present: Tinku Khanwalkar, Jennifer Swann, Julie Thomases, Holly Edinger, Dieter Kretschy

Guests: Becky Kiss – Chair of Allentown Recreation Commission, Jon Zeller, Kyle Ropski, Dale Fairclough (resident and engineer)

- Approval of Minutes from January Meeting
 - No official meeting held for January 2023
 - Approval of new Vice Chair and Past Chair positions in AEAC
 - Motion “to create a vice chair position” by Tinku, Second by Dieter. Approved.
 - Motion “to create a past chair position” by Tinku, Second by Dieter. Approved.
 - Nomination and approval of members to serve as Chair and Vice Chair of AEAC
 - Nomination of slate of officers Maria Ocasio as Chair and Jon Stanley as Vice Chair and Past Chair position as Tinku
 - Motion made by Tinku, Second by Dieter. Approved
 - Review and finalization of 2023 goals
 - The following goals were approved for 2023 (four votes in favor, one absention by Dieter Kretschy):
1. Advise and assist the City on completing a free comprehensive energy audit for all City-owned assets (including vehicles and distributed energy systems) in 2023. The AEAC lead on this goal will be Tinku Khanwalkar. Jon Zeller and Kyle Ropski will support this goal.
 2. Advise and assist the City in creating a task force in 2023 to select and prioritize recommendations for City-owned assets from the energy audit considering all grant opportunities and alternative financing mechanisms with an eye towards creating a publicly available energy savings implementation plan for city assets with targets and interim Milestones by 2024. This goal will also be led by Tinku Khanwalkar, Jon Zeller and Kyle Ropski.

3. Develop a report and recommends and a proposed ordinance banning plastic bags in the City. Julie Thomases will lead this goal with assistance from Jennifer Swann and Dieter Kretschy and Lacey.
4. Advance energy equity in the City of Allentown by partnering with CACLV to produce educational material on indoor air quality, energy efficiency and opportunities for whole home retrofitting including for rental properties. Maria Ocasio will lead this goal with assistance from Jennifer Swann.
5. Incorporate environmental sustainability in the “Inside Allentown” program run by Julie Thomases. This goal will be led by Julie Thomases with input from Tinku Khanwalkar
6. Evaluate incorporating BirdTown metrics into future AEAC initiatives. This goal will be led by Tinku Khanwalkar with input from Barbara Malt