

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Allentown Environmental Advisory Council**  
**October 10, 2022**

**5:15 PM**

**City Hall 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room or Via Microsoft Teams**

**Attendance:** Maria Ocasio, Julie Thomasas, Holly Edinger, Jennifer Swann (4 of 7)

Missing: John Stanley, Dieter Kresky, Tinku Khanwalkar

**Non-EAC members present** Kyle Ropski, Connor Corpora (mayor's office), Jon Zeller, Lacey Pasco

**Old Business**

- Approval of Minutes from September Meeting
- Review GESA Recommendation White Paper
  - Motion by holly, second by Jennifer. Opposed? None
  - Motion passes and chair will forward this to the mayor and city council members
- Review Recommendation about Energy Authority/ Green Bank
  - Motion to table this action based on input from the administration
  - More research needed- Lacey could help
- Review of AEAC sustainability dashboard
  - By end of 2023 complete a comprehensive energy audit for all City assets (including vehicles and distributed energy systems)
  - By end of 2023 collect data on residential energy use and residences with high energy burden
    - *Seeking an intern from Muhlenberg College*
  - By end of 2022 design a job description sustainability officer within the Mayor's office.
    - *Work to finalize and propose this to mayor and city council*
    - *Connor can provide a template to Kyle to finalize this*
  - By end of 2023 create a task force to select and prioritize recommendations for city assets from the energy audit considering all grant opportunities and alternative financing mechanisms
  - By end of 2024 create a publicly available energy savings implementation plan for city assets with targets and interim milestones
  - By end of 2024 establish policies and programs to reduce energy use at residences with high energy burden
  - By end of 2023 complete a climate vulnerability assessment with broad stakeholder input
  - Develop a Climate Action Plan Within 12 months of LVPC's completion of the regional climate action plan
  - By end of 2023 hire a sustainability officer.
- Report on Solar Kiln Project (Leo Rooney, Lehigh interns)
  - Lehigh U. is now moving forward with a kiln

- City is working through legal stuff with PNLV, EAC funds \$5k to be use
    - Follow up on status of proposal
- Reports from EAC/Friends leads on remaining goals
  - No update at this time
- Report by Climate Corp/ Promise Neighborhood
  - No update at this time

#### **New Business**

- **Plastic bag ban- proposed ordinance**
  - Resend the ordinance to the EAC members
  - We should move this to the Administration and advocate for this in November
  - Jennifer and Julie will carry this forward
  - Ask for public input on this... Lacey can have ENACT get involved
  - Lacey can help with promotional materials
  - Call Josh Sigel (sp?)
- **Muhlenberg Internship** is being applied for/ sought to help with the energy burden research
- **Presentation by NREL to Jennifer and Lehigh community**- an extended producer responsibility (regarding plastics), glass is turned into cement- not recycled into glass. Virgin resin tax for anyone that uses “new” plastic resin. What is the role of municipal government in promoting? The city could require a supplier to be an extended producer responsible.