

August Meeting Minutes

Meeting of Allentown Environmental Advisory Council

August 14th, 2023 5:15 PM

City Hall 5th Floor Conference Room or Via Zoom

EAC Members in Attendance:

Old Business

1.) Status updates on ongoing projects:

Plastic Bags – There was a conversation as to whether or not to pursue this topic further. Tinku noted that this is being led by Julie Thomases who has done a lot of work on it with stakeholder meetings, etc. As she was not present to provide her feedback, this was tabled to the next meeting.

2.) CDP Report: Tinku reported that the City's response to the CDP questionnaire was successfully submitted with a significant amount of City input especially from Public Works. It will be posted on the AEAC web page when it becomes available from the CDP.

4.) Birdtown Evaluation and Recommendations: Tinku reported that the report and recommendations were successfully completed, and the report is available on the AEAC web page. The next step will be to see how the AEAC can incorporate Bird Town metrics in the AEAC goals and help to drive them.

5.) Allentown Sustainability Manager – Maria is working on a petition in her role with Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania. She will share it with AEAC members. Although the AEAC is advisory and, therefore, cannot circulate the petition, the AEAC members can support it as residents of Allentown.

6.) Tree Equity – Tinku and Maria have attended a meeting of the Shade Tree Commission. Their main focus is compliance with Allentown's Shade Tree Ordinance. They do not have the resources to join the AEAC in conducting a tree giveaway program. They currently have about 80 requests for trees and not enough staff to fulfill those requests. They are aiming towards an education program. They will be happy to collaborate with the AEAC, especially after the new arborist joins later this year.

7.) Water Equity: Tinku has been involved in discussion with LCA and US Water Alliance regarding water equity. The AEAC agreed that Tinku should continue with these discussions and ultimately prepare a draft report and recommendations with City input for AEAC review and approval. No specific deadline was established.