

Allentown EAC Minutes
September 13, 2021
5:15 PM via Zoom

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

Guest: Kyle Ropski (kropski@muhlenberg.edu), Jacob Kidd (jkidd@muhlenberg.edu), Julie Thomases, Lacey Pasco, Jeremy Taylor (jeremy@somaxhtc.com), Joseph Hoffman

Welcome and Introductions

October Meeting Discussion: Move to the 3rd Monday (10/18) due to the Chairperson's travel. We will have a new Zoom Link not linked to Lehigh University.

Review and Approval of August Minutes (approved)

Old Business

- **2021 Goals Report**

1. Waste Minimization/Food Waste – Holly Edinger
 - a. New Muhlenberg Intern: Jacob Kidd
 - b. Focused on diversion of food to those in need
 - c. Could talk to Dieter about solid waste management as well
 - d. Lacey's contact is involved in the Muhlenberg food waste recovery
2. Micro-mobility – Jennifer Swann/Tinku Khanwalkar
 - a. Approval of Micro-Mobility Report
 - b. Will be posted to EAC Website
3. Climate Action Inventory: Tinku will meet with city staff on action to focus on the actions and a score card/ dashboard. Look to have continued support from new administration come the new year.
4. (Reinstated) Addressing EJ through Litter Programs: Citizen Climate Core in development/ discussion- Could this be used to bring the topic of litter/ plastic to the community? Funding is available to support this work from Wm. Penn Foundation. Working with the ASD Foundation and Lehigh U. on a proposal.
5. Park Spark Project – Jennifer; No update.
6. Litter/Invasive Plant Removal Events
 - a. 401 Cleveland- city found that the owner does not exist any longer
 - b. Dieter will talk with his contact about a cleanup event (possibly at 401 Cleveland) in October

- c. Big Brothers Big Sisters- Tinku talked to them about that but, as part of MLK day and twice a year. Jon Stanley will coordinate this and Lacey will help with poster design.
 - d. Parks- no meeting with Parks Dept. until 9/29
 - e. Poison Hemlock contest on social media- dropped to focus on other initiatives.
- 7. Rain Gardens (Muhlenberg -- Sadie): No update since Sadie is not on campus.
- 8. Community Garden at Muhlenberg: Have a lot of volunteers this year! and they could maybe help with park or cleanup event.
- 9. Create a public repository of sustainability data including Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Climate Action Inventory, Community Sustainability Certification, CDP Responses, etc. (Lacey). We need to figure out how to build an online repository. Lacey can look into this.
- 10. 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)
- 11. Sustainable Pennsylvania Communities Certification (Tinku)
 - a. Should get completed in the next few weeks by City staff
- 12. Sustainable Business Survey and Recognition Program – (Dieter/Jennifer)
 - a. Dieter put together the start of a program. Tinku will share it around for input/ further development.
 - b. Julie suggested having recognition/poster for participating businesses
 - c. Tulsa did a business score card that was affective and even provided feedback to the business owners. Phila Sustain Biz Network is a good example.
 - d. Convene a subcommittee on this: Dieter, Jeremy, Kyle, Julie
- 11. Preliminary Review of Allentown Zoning Map – (Holly / Jennifer)

Reports from EAC Liaisons

- a. Muhlenberg College – Tinku/Lacey/Sadie
 - i. Continue discussion on the litter/ plastic program
 - ii. Lacey is new sustainability intern for the dining hall

- b. Parks and Recreation – Jennifer /Tinku
 - i. No meeting this past month
- c. Public Works – Tinku
 - i. No meeting this past month. Looking to bimonthly
- d. City Council – Dave – No update. Josh continues to advocate for EAC Budget. Budget approval sessions coming up later this fall.
- e. Planning Commission – Holly
 - i. Meeting with Shade Tree Commission/Chis Brown
- f. Bureau of Planning and Zoning – Tinku, Holly and Jennifer

New Business

- Platform for future EAC meetings: Tinku will take on Zoom personally. (taken care of)
- Energy Efficiency Program for Low-income rental units (Julie Thomases and Tinku)
 - This impacts climate and EJ. Uninsulated buildings and old refrigerators/stoves cost more to those who can least afford, and increases our carbon footprint. How can we improve this? What are other cities doing to tackle this issue?
 - Tinku, Julie, Dieter and Holly are on subcommittee for this
- Dieter report on food waste information from Las Vegas Waste expo (update at next meeting)
- Solar Cooperatives/ Community Solar (Tinku) – Ask Solar Neighbors United to do a presentation for our EAC. Invite Rep. Schweyer.
- Litter program with ASD and Lehigh University (see above)
- Creative Community Engagement on Litter (Dieter)
- Porous Paving (Jennifer)- no update