

## Minutes of April 10, 2023 Meeting of Allentown EAC

The meeting commenced at 5:15 PM in City Hall (5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room) and via Zoom

EAC Members: Tinku, Maria, Jon Stanley

Members of Public: Molly Bilinski, Jon Zeller, Lacey Pasco, Kyle Ropski, Tim

As there was no quorum present, the minutes of the March EAC meeting could not be approved and the revised 2023 goals could not be approved.

Maria reported that a Solar Resolution (R-70) supporting more solar installation by the City was before City Council on April 5. Kyle Ropski gave further details on the resolution. He attended the City Council meeting and spoke about the importance of proceeding under GESA so that the City can undertake these projects at no cost. The resolution as considered by City Council includes energy efficiency along with renewable energy and also has a commitment to take advantage of GESA. City Council referred the resolution to the Human Resources, Administration and Appointments Committee and to the AEAC. Tinku explained that the inclusion of energy efficiency and the commitment on GESA was a result of her conversations with Mike Hanlon. Tinku also explained that she and Jon Zeller will be meeting with Mark Shahda, Director of Public Works, this summer to begin looking at potential City sites for solar and/or energy efficiency projects.

Maria reminded everyone that Earth Day cleanup with Salisbury EAC is coming up at 10 am – 1 pm on April 22, 2023 and encouraged participation.

Tinku reported that the City's grants manager, Clary Peralta Colon, had asked for AEAC assistance with applying for a Municipal Assistance Program grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development in support of a sustainability master plan for the City. There is no deadline to apply. We could work with an intern on this. However, an EAC member must lead the effort or coordinate with a leading outside member. This could become an additional 2023 goal or a 2024 goal for the AEAC.

### Goal updates

**Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy For City Owned Assets:** Jon Zeller provided an update on energy efficiency and renewable energy for City-owned assets. The City has provided energy use data for the largest three city buildings, including electric and natural gas data.

**Energy Equity:** Lacey is looking at how we can access funds and opportunities for Allentown renters that face energy burdens. Lacey has written a paper which will be merged into a report and recommendations that will include research by two other interns -- James Wynne from Muhlenberg and Gabriel Sampaio from the NCC. The report and recommendations will build on the AEAC's 2022 recommendations to the City on Energy Equity and will include recommendations on energy efficiency and renewable energy for City-owned assets, as well as more details GESA and on available financing for residents.

**Plastic Bags:** Jennifer Swann is working on the ordinance and the wording that should be used for it. Using other ordinances to model the draft ordinance. Work is continuing.

**Bird Town Evaluation:** Tinku continues working on a report and recommendations to the City on metrics PA Audubon has developed for Bird Towns..

Maria highlighted the following events that AEAC members and friends should participate in:

Earth Day Event – Volunteering tabling event on April 22, 12 pm – 4 pm, at Art in the Park (Allentown, PA).

Muhlenberg EcoFest on April 28, 11 am – 3 pm.

#### New Business

June 7, The LV EAC Forum is being held in Bethlehem, PA, at the Steel Stacks, 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm, with a discussion on Energy Equity. PADEP, USDOE, and Holly E. will be speaking.

Working with the Delaware River Coalition on Water Equity.

Mayor Tuerk has reached out to AEAC to conduct research on tree equity. This will need an intern and an AEAC lead.