

Minutes of June 13th EAC Meeting

The Allentown EAC met on June 13th, 2016 starting at 5:15 p.m. in the 3rd floor Conference Room of Allentown City Hall.

EAC members present: Randy Fey, David Keschl, Scott Burnet, Tinku Khanwalkar

City official present: Lindsay Taylor

Non-EAC members present: Janet Keschl, Richard Niesenbaum

- The minutes of the May EAC meeting were approved.
- There was discussion of problems posed by abandoned properties – garbage, vermin, etc. Clarification is needed on what the applicable City ordinances are and which City department is responsible for enforcing against the property owner. David Keschl agreed to look into this.
- There was a discussion about the stormwater management at the old Wentz Memorial property. Scott Burnet agreed to check whether there appear to be any remaining concerns.
- Rich Niesenbaum provided an update on Allentown Planning Commission activities. Rich agreed to provide minutes of future Planning Commission meetings to EAC members. Rich will attend future EAC meetings if EAC input is needed on any of the matters before the Planning Commission.
- There was discussion of EAC support for two grant applications by the City: (1) the second phase of the MLK Little Lehigh Trail and (2) development of the master plan and environmental assessment of the Incinerator Property. Scott Burnet suggested that the EAC should receive copies of all environmental assessments done on these properties and any other properties as to which EAC support is sought.
- Tinku Khanwalkar moved that the EAC support the two grant applications per the letter of support proposed by Lindsay Taylor. The motion was seconded by Randy Fey and unanimously **APPROVED**.

- EAC members asked Lindsay Taylor about the buffer zone management plan for Cedar Creek Park. Lindsay explained that there is no written management plan, but the annual mowing approach has been dropped and the current look of the buffers will be maintained. A more formal management plan will be developed once a decision is made on the appropriate herbicides to use. Tinku Khanwalkar suggested that the Parks Department work with the EAC in developing the plan.
- Lindsay Taylor also reported on various other initiatives being undertaken by Parks and Recreation, including rebuilding of Jordan Pool, restoration of Bogart's Bridge, rebuilding of the West Park fountain, and converting the lower pond at Trexler Park into a wetland. Tinku Khanwalkar encouraged Lindsay to seek EAC input on these initiatives.
- Rand Fey shared a draft of an article on invasive plants for inclusion in Adventure Allentown. EAC members are to provide comments to Randy by no later than the July meeting.
- There was discussion of the AERC application to renew its hazardous waste permit. David Keschl was unable to find more information on it because DEP's website has not been updated. David will do more research on this.
- Tinku Khanwalkar made a motion for the EAC to be able to decide via email whether to support any grant request by the City. The motion was seconded by David Keschl. After discussion, Tinku withdrew her motion.
- There was a discussion about the EAC's 2016 goals. The following three goals were agreed upon:
 - (1) Educational efforts focused on invasive plants and recycling
 - (2) Stream Buffer Management Plan
 - (3) Continuing to expand the EAC's liaison activities with City departments
- With respect to the third goal above, David Keschl agreed to be liaison for the Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste, while Randy Fey will remain liaison for the Department of Public Works. Randy Fey will also be liaison with the Allentown Health Department.
- There was a discussion on the need for more education about the Allentown EAC. This will be the subject of the spring EAC submission to Adventure Allentown.

The meeting was duly adjourned at 7:00 p.m.