

Minutes of November 9th EAC Meeting

The Allentown EAC met on November 9th, 2015 starting at 5:15 p.m. in the 3rd floor Conference Room of Allentown City Hall.

EAC members present: Randy Fey, Allan Messinger, Richard Niesenbaum, Tinku Khanwalkar

City officials present: Lindsay Taylor

- The minutes of the October EAC meeting were duly approved (there was no meeting in September due to the absence of a quorum)
- The continued mowing of the no-mow zones at Cedar Creek was discussed. Lindsay Taylor explained that no further mowing of those areas will be done this year and the Parks and Recreation Department will look into planting those zones with larger woody plants that may be less likely to be inadvertently mowed down. Lindsay Taylor agreed to look at using native woody plants as much as possible.
- The environmental impacts of the Color Run were discussed. Although Claudia Steckel did find some debris left over after the event, there was no fish kill this year. The EAC concluded that its involvement and advocacy on this resulted in the overall environmental impacts being significantly lower this year.
- There was a discussion about the need for the Allentown Planning Commission to have an invasive plants list as a guide when reviewing development plans. Rich Niesenbaum will provide the DCNR list to the Planning Commission and ensure that this is taken into account in future reviews by the Planning Commission.
- The tours of the water treatment plant and wastewater plant were reviewed. Two items raised during the tours may involve the EAC:
 - The EAC may be able to play a useful role in public education related to rain-derived inflow and infiltration. This needs further discussion.
 - A City employee noted that Allentown is the only City in the Valley that continues to add fluoride to the drinking water and questioned whether this is a prudent expense anymore. The EAC discussed the concern and concluded that it is not sufficiently related to the EAC's mission. Allan Messinger moved that the EAC would not oppose the City's continued fluoridation of the City's water. The motion was seconded by Rich Niesenbaum and **APPROVED**.
- Tinku Khanwalkar agreed to compile a summary of the EAC's accomplishments in 2015. The summary will include the research done by EAC members during the year, all of which will be included in the report filed with City Council. In addition, Tinku will look into scheduling a presentation to City Council in the third week of January by Randy Fey on his stormwater research. Tinku noted that the Mayor wanted a chance to see the presentation in advance.

- Rich reported on various community initiatives, including the Jordan Heights program, a bike share program between Allentown and Muhlenberg College, and research into how a food composting program at Muhlenberg College can be scaled up for the City.
- There was a discussion about EAC's position on whether the City should impose a stormwater fee on existing building owners. Tinku Khanwalkar recused herself from the discussion. Rich Niesenbaum moved that the EAC would support a stormwater fee if it can be reduced by appropriate mitigation measures such as rain gardens, etc. The motion was seconded by Randy Fey and **APPROVED** (3 votes in favor and 1 abstention).

The meeting was duly adjourned at 7:30 p.m.