

**Meeting of Allentown EAC,
July 8, 2019 minutes
5th Floor Conference Room, City Hall**

In Attendance: Anil Patel (potential member), David Melman, Tinku Khanwalker, Liz Hunt, Jennifer Swann

Guests: Joe McMahon, Irene Woodward, Hannah Clark

Presentation: Ms. Clark presented a synopsis of “Allentown Vision 2030” a comprehensive, inclusive, long range strategic plan for the city, created every ten years as required by the municipal planning code. The city is working with 2 consultants: [Faces](#) – a media/communications group assisting in relaying the components of the plan to the public; [evolveEA](#) a sustainability architecture firm that will assist with the implementation. The city has created a Community Engagement Hub @ 6th and Linden that is open to the public for input on the plan and staffed from 12- 5 Monday, Wednesday, Friday. The EAC was encouraged to drop by. The plan will be complete after the last meeting (mid-September) and then will be open to comment from September to October. In November to December it will be presented for approval to the City Council

Discussion included: the EAC’s desire to ensure that the comprehensive plan includes a climate action component that reflects a commitment to implementing the C40 climate framework. This would enable the climate action commitment to be at a level of detail that allows for action and implementation. The climate action section of the comprehensive plan should also reflect alignment with climate planning and analyses of the LV Planning Commission.

Old Business: (action items)**

1. **May minutes** were reviewed, and approved. There were no minutes at the June meeting because we lacked a quorum
2. **Solar Resolution** - – passed at the last city council meeting (4-3). The resolution expresses the city’s support of solar energy and will help the state law on community solar that is currently under consideration. This is a sizable accomplishment for the EAC and the EAC needs to find ways to communicate it to the public.

** Tinku will contact Joe McMahon for more city press on the solar resolution; perhaps put this as a flier to be including in the next public mailing from the Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste (Liz will discuss this with Kristin Baringer – education manager at Allentown’s Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste .

3. **Recycling in Schools (Dave, Tim, Liz)** there is little funding in the ASD at this time to address this issue. The EAC will continue to attend school board meetings to press the issue where possible.

** Dave will attend July 25th (Dave); Liz will attend August 8th (finance meeting)

1. **Plastic bags and straws (Dave, Liz, Tim, Jennifer)** – PA has placed a ban on taxing or banishing plastic bags. This does not affect the EAC’s plans as our focus has been on an incentive program rather than a ban. To this end we will ask local enterprises if they have an interest in addressing

the straw issues by pledging to adopt measures to decrease straw use (ask before serving, adopt paper instead of plastic straws) and then follow up to see if they are compliant. Large enterprises such as educational institutions and hospitals may be interested for the public relations benefit this could bring. (Could we contact that Chamber to announce our plan?)

** Liz will draft pledge for EAC consideration at next EAC meeting.

**All EAC members will think of what businesses they will approach about the pledge and a list will be compiled at the next EAC meeting.

4.

5. Report on meeting with Public Works (Dave)

** Dave will go to every public works meeting through November and will let us know if he cannot attend

6. Report on meeting with Parks and Recreation (Tinku) - Tinku attended and has produced a summary. The grounds surrounding lake Muhlenberg and their expense were discussed. Several options – a fence , a boardwalk – were discussed as approaches that will allow the ground to return to its natural state. EAC could help by obtaining funds to begin.

** Tim (not in attendance) will look for pa/dep grants to improve the lake Muhlenberg situation.

- The committee also discussed the current construction of Irving pool.
- Identifying WPA sites were discussed; need to find the resources for it
- **Motion passed** to change the city's EAC ordinance to have the Bureau of planning and zoning be the liaison to the EAC in lieu of the planning commission.

7. Update on Iron Pigs event and materials for table (Liz)

- Dave and Tinku will set up at 5:00, Jennifer will man the table all night

** Tinku will bring fliers; Dave will bring the newsletters from public works; Dave will get fliers from Adventure Allentown: Jennifer will obtain the 'Lantern fly' fliers from Penn state.

8. List of other events to table (Tim) not present – no discussion

9. Suggested changes to EAC ordinance (Tinku) – provided a mark-up of the ordinance reflecting her thoughts on changes we can propose. Members are to look over the mark-up and be prepared to discuss each proposed change at the August EAC meeting.

10. Climate Action Plan (Tinku) Discussion of avoiding 'green washing' (lots of activity without action); Tinku sent on a CAP from Pottsville. The goal is for climate action to be included in the comprehensive plan. Cities that have done this right have specific break downs in their plans with plans for reduction of the impact. Our goal is to advise rather than undertake all needed analyses and work to develop and implement the plan. A consultant will likely need to be retained, which would require the city to budget for it. Courtney could assist us as a member of the city council.

New Business:

1. Meeting with the mayor. Tinku – Wednesday at 11:00 Discussion topics for meeting with Mayor (Tinku)
 - City Council liaison

- Changes to EAC ordinance
- Climate Action Plan
- Continued vacancy on EAC – waiver for Anil?
- Enhancing EAC’s role in planning and sustainability initiatives per 2020 Comprehensive Plan

2. Muhlenberg Bike Share Program

The advantages and disadvantages of the dock and dockless share programs were discussed. EAC is not in position to support Muhlenberg’s specific program. However, EAC would be interested in supporting a city bike share program. Possibilities of sponsorship were discussed. Issue has been tabled until the EAC can discuss programs with Kalyna Procyk (sustainability coordinator, adjunct professor of environmental science at Muhlenberg)

** Tinku will follow up.

- 3. Keep Allentown Beautiful (Liz/Jennifer)** Christine is out – waiting for her return. Liz and Jennifer will attend as the program proceeds.