

EAC meeting – January 13th 2019; 5th Floor Conference Room, City Hall

In attendance – Tinku Khanwalkar, David Melman, Liz Hunt, Alejandra Soler

Meeting began at 5:15

1. Welcome new members and introductions

Holly is the new member – not in attendance

2. Review of November minutes

Micro-mobility

- David will attend a February council meeting to make the brief statement regarding support for micro-mobility. David will talk to Josh Siegel before attending the meeting.
- Liz and David will draft a resolution for the EAC to review and officially recommend to Council
- Kalyna (Muhlenberg) will help to increase attendance at the City Council meeting at which the resolution is proposed. (Approval of the resolution will get the discussion going around a micro-mobility plan which should line up with the LVPC's walk-roll plan which is out for public comment).
- Each EAC member will review the LVPC's walk-roll plan and comment individually
- Following the resolution, Liz will spearhead follow-up with City Council

3. Internships

- Jennifer will work with Kalyna (Muhlenberg Sustainability Director) to develop internship descriptions to post on "Handshake"

4. Climate Action

- Tinku will review with Mayor O'Connell on January 15th the next steps for Allentown's GHG inventory and climate action plan

5. Keep Allentown beautiful needs further planning

6. Next steps on the Barns property

- David has researched and determined that City council is not prohibited from demanding an environmental assessment
- Tinku made a motion that the EAC communicate to the Allentown Planning commission its position that the Allentown Planning Commission should require the developer to complete an assessment of the environmental impacts of the development before final approvals are granted. The motion PASSED with 3 votes in favor and one abstention
- The EAC should also officially advise city council *before* all permits are issued, that the developer should conduct an environmental impact assessment.

- Tinku will draft a letter to each of the above, for review and approval at the February meeting.
- Following submission of the letters, an EAC member will contact each for follow-up conversation. A decision on who will make the contacts will be made at the February EAC meeting.

7. Parks and rec

- No update as Karen is out of town
- Tinku has a contact interested in pursuing the park spark concept through ESEI

8. 2019 report was unanimously APPROVED

9. Community garden project

- Karen El Chaar's position is that if we are to do something on property managed by parks and rec it needs to be protected and maintained
- Tina Almada at the health bureau is on board with the concept. Will be able to allocate 1000.00 towards it – wants the food to be publicly available
- Tim Delany – has volunteered to help with planning, maintenance and education. Wants a school involved.
- Can be done through United Way – Liz will invite her friend to get involved.
- Kimberly has plenty of garden space. Food won't go to waste and can get directly to the schools.
- Best approach is to take Tim Delany to Muhlenberg to see what is available.

10. Tinku will cover the following with the mayor and Joe McMahon on the 15th.

- Vacancy on EAC (must be a resident). The EAC is supposed to have a city rep that attends our meetings as liaison. Ordinance establishing the EAC states the liaison is to be from the planning commission and is a non-voting member of the EAC. The EAC agreed that it would be better to have a city council member as a voting member of the EAC similar to the structure of the Bethlehem EAC. Tinku noted that Josh Siegel has already indicated that he may be willing to take this role.
- Further discussion on establishing a Climate action task force for Allentown
- Endorsement of the energy innovation and carbon dividend act. (Note: money goes back to the people instead of funding initiatives related to the environment – City climate lobby may be able to get chamber endorsement if they change the bill.) The EAC has not been asked to endorse the bill yet. We will discuss if asked.
- Is the city willing to commit to signing up for renewable energy when current contracts expire?

11. Alejandra will speak with Sarah Pane assets – company that does b-corp certification on January at 1:00 to determine how they monitor businesses that are plastics free

12. Tinku has a letter from Torrey Lilienthal about the contrails from the back of jet engines. The committee unanimously APPROVED the letter Tinku drafted in response

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20