

EAC meeting S. September 23, 2019

In attendance: Hannah Clark, Irene Woodward, David Melman, Karen Berry, Barbara Kroll (Green Space) Diana Fandl, Janet Gehringer (Green Space) Liz Hunt, Jennifer Swann

1. August minutes were approved.
2. Hannah Clark gave a presentation on Vision 2030
 - Vision of the city as a steward of economic Inclusivity
 - Plan is available online www.AllentownVision2030.org/plan
 - Public comment ends October 31st. Every Wednesday there is a “learning lunch “to discuss; they are also hosting open houses and are available by email for comments.
 - The report has been organized into 5 urban systems - Economic Development, Housing, Accessibility & Connectivity , Service & Amenities, Living systems.
 - Planners suggest that we provide questions as a group: be specific and provide examples.
 - Plan includes Catalytic actions - these include neighborhood partnerships and zoning update which are catalytic actions across all systems. Each system also has its own set of catalytic actions. For Living Systems, the catalytic action is to create a network of urban trails and greenways

Comment/Questions from the group - will landlords be required to be transparent about the energy costs and/or required to make their housing more energy efficient? Some landlords have problems with squatters who have driven up the cost. This could make transparency inaccurate unless a uniform method is developed to compare apples to apples.

Comparing the plan to the suggestions from the EAC - much of our recommendations have been included at a higher level. Tinku noted that some of the detailed recommendations do not necessarily have to be in the Vision 2030 Report so long as they are incorporated into the climate action plan itself. Tinku expressed the concern that there is no time frame stated for developing the climate action plan.

Motion was made (approved and passed) for Tinku to develop formal EAC comments on the Vision 2030 Plan for approval at the next EAC meeting – October 21st.

- 2.
3. Public works - no information (Dave did not attend the meeting) Public works committee at city council did discuss installing Smart traffic lights - lights change their times to adjust with the traffic.
4. Parks and rec -
 - a. Parks Department has asked whether EAC could find resources to catalogue trees I the parks. There was discussion as to whether Muhlenberg students could work as interns on such a project. We should first inquire whether the Parks Department has any record of what they have planted.
 - b. EAC (Liz) can help publicize the million clicks and the exercise stations in the park.
5. Barnes lane property.
 - a. The EAC had objected to the proposed development which was a multifamily development with a small amount of green space. The developer has now proposed a

single-family development - which is much worse than what was originally proposed, but would not require a zoning variance (which the original proposal needed).

- b. The runoff after rain is intense. There are wetlands in the area. Can it be declared a preserve area? EAC has advised the city that they should not proceed until the planning and zoning commission has been shown that the environmental impact of the development has been considered and properly mitigated. If the project is approved without proper mitigation, the City's action can be appealed. It would not be appropriate for the EAC to engage in the appeal as the EAC is an advisory body. There was discussion as to whether Sierra Club may be willing to take this on (Tinku will explore).
 - c. Muhlenberg did an impact study in the 70s and it may be useful for identifying endangered species.
6. Climate action plan - will be discussed at the October meeting.
 7. Single use plastics
 - a. Allentown zoo has a "Know Plastics" campaign - Liz will explore
 - b. Pledge - Liz circulated a list of vendors that are members of the chamber (less than 50%). Perhaps we can give out plaques as part of the "Make Allentown Beautiful" campaign. Liz will contact Kristin Baringer about this. Pledge to eliminate straws - what is the accountability?
 8. Keith Hespeth Article IV - Allentown EAC bylaws - motion made and unanimously approved that, having followed the notification procedures provided by the bylaws, the secretary of the EAC is to contact the mayor and city council to recommend that Keith be removed from the EAC for to perform his duties as an EAC member.
 9. A discussion of the recommended changes to the bylaws has been tabled to the November meeting
 10. Vice chair- David was nominated to be vice chair and unanimously voted in.