

MEETING: 01/07/2025

Opened at 6:00pm / City Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room & Virtually on Zoom

Attendees

Members	Public
Ian Kindle, Paul Schalow, Mary Arlia, Robert MacDonald (virtual), Nick Gorski, Stacy Melvin (virtual) Associate Members: Tony Klapatch, Louisa Durkin, Analise Absent Members: None	Miranda Wilcha, Kate Simmons (virtual), Chelsea McClure (virtual), Analise (virtual), Garrett (virtual), Lauren Fosbenner (virtual), Molly Bilinski (virtual)

Agenda

EAC Organization

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. The actual start of the meeting was delayed as the agenda contained the wrong Zoom call to start the session, and additional time was needed to ensure that all members could join.

Robert motioned to approve the minutes. Ian seconded, and the minutes were approved 5-0.

The council moved on to electing officers. Nick opened nominations for Vice Chair. Ian nominated Stacy, and Stacy accepted. With no other nominations her election was approved 4-0 with one abstention.

The floor was opened to nominations for Associate members. Nick nominated Tom Pritchett. Ian nominated Paul Schlalow. Rob Christopher noted at this time that the new sustainability coordinator will have a seat on the committee, though the details of how that will work still needs to be worked out. As that did not impact the appointment of associate members, the floor was reopened. The council agreed to only nominate people who were at the meeting, either virtually or in person. Nick then nominated Analise Draghi and moved to consider all three appointments at the same time. Robert seconded, and the associate members were approved 5-0.

The group discussed the role of secretary, and the possibility of sharing note-taking responsibilities with the secretary ultimately responsible for completing the final minutes. The group also discussed using an online service to transcribe and take notes, but no final decision was made. The floor was opened for nominations. Mary nominated Robert, and Robert accepted. With no other nominations his election was approved 5-0.

For standing committees, the group discussed creating a Membership committee dedicated specifically to help find new potential members of the committee. As the role of the sustainability coordinator is still unfilled, the group did not move to create the committee at this time.

The group discussed whether we should maintain the Waste & Recycling Committee. No motion was made to dissolve it.

Robert moved to create an Environmental Grants committee. The committee would seek out grant applications and pass them along to the City. In discussion, it wasn't clear whether it made sense to have a standing committee for this, or if it should be the role of individual committees. Additionally, the city already has dedicated employees to work on this, and it will be part of the responsibilities of the new sustainability coordinator. Robert withdrew the motion.

The floor was opened for nominations for the chair of each committee.

For the Greenspaces committee, Nick nominated Mary, but Mary declined. Mary nominated Ian, and Ian accepted. With no other nominations, the council voted 5-0 to elect Ian as chair of the Greenspaces committee.

For the Transportation committee, Mary nominated Nick, and Nick accepted. With no other nominations, the council voted 5-0 to elect Nick as chair of the Transportation committee.

For the Waste & Recycling committee, Ian nominated Mary, and Mary accepted. With no other nominations, the council voted 5-0 to elect Mary as chair of the Waste & Recycling committee.

For the Communications committee, Nick nominated Robert, and Robert accepted. With no other nominations, the council voted 5-0 to elect Robert as chair of the Communications committee.

The group discussed the annual report draft, and reordered several of the items. The

annual report will be editable on Teams through Jan. 28, and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The council did not take action on a membership vacancy post, pending discovery of the role of new Sustainability Coordinator.

Public Comment

Nick opened discussions on the Wilson Warehouse. He went to the public information session held in the West Ward in December, and noted that the environmental remediation being done on the site is positive, despite the effects of the project as a whole. He specifically called out that a tributary to the Bushkill Creek has been underground for several decades, and the new environmental design will daylight that stream.

Reports

CAP & Climate Adaptation Plan

Kate Semmens discussed the upcoming CAP Task Force meeting to take place on Jan. 28.

Waste & Recycling Committee:

The group discussed whether we should maintain the Waste & Recycling Committee. No motion was made to dissolve it.

Transportation Committee:

Nick discussed that congestion pricing in New York City already had a significant positive effect on commute times to Manhattan, saving at least 45 minutes per round trip between Easton and New York during rush hour. Additionally, he noted that discussions between the city and LANTA on improving bus service in Easton were continuing.

Greenspace Committee:

Ian moved to send a letter requesting the path be made at least 12 feet, and Robert seconded. The motion was approved 5-0.

Ian discussed continued progress on the ArcGIS Greenspaces project. There is a list of blocks that should be targeted, and members should reach out to Ian to sign up to complete those blocks.

Communications Committee:

The group discussed the upcoming WorkshopLV CAP meeting on Jan. 22. Additionally, the group discussed organizing a cleanup the morning of Jan. 18. Mary would reach out to Stacy to have information about the cleanup published.

City Urban Forestry Update

City Forester Rob Christopher updated the council on recent developments. Bidding for the new building in Hackett Park should be completed by Jan. 16, and control enhancements for Hackett, including new stairs and gates would be implemented. Rob and Miranda both discussed the upcoming Arbor Fest, linking Arbor Day events with the Youth Climate Summit in April.

Oak trees in Upper Hackett will need to be removed, due to bacterial leaf scorch. Oak trees in Nevin Park is also potentially impacted.

Additionally, Rob informed the council of an upcoming PennDOT project under the Lehigh

River that will have an impact on plantings in Scott Park. The total scope is not known at this time.

New Business

Nick nominated Tony as an Associate Member, and Ian seconded. The nomination was approved

5-0.

Tony mentioned discussion from Council Committee meetings regarding changes to building

heights. The new building heights will be reduced to only five stories on most downtown blocks,

but this decision does not impact the Northampton St overlay which will still allow buildings up

to seven stories.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm; motioned by Mary, seconded by Ian - passed 5-0-0.