

MEETING: 05/02/2023

Opened at 6:04pm / City Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room & Virtually on Zoom

Attendees

In person: Robert MacDonald, Tony Klapatch, John Zeller, Paul Schalow, Mary Arlia, Nick Gorski, Rohan Prabhu

Virtual: Ian Kindle, Molly Bilinski, Maggie Beetstra, Kathryn Semmens

Agenda

EAC Organization and Priorities

April meeting minutes were approved unanimously (3-0), Ian made the motion, Robert seconded.

Ian is continuing to work with the city and the mayor on getting new members appointed.

Public Comment

Mary Arlia inquired on light pollution within the city including lights out during peak migration in the spring and fall. **Ian will follow up with Dave Hopkins & public works for operating hours for lights within the city.** Robert mentioned trying to get the planning commission involved in this discussion with a joint workshop meeting.

Easton Climate Action Plan

Kathryn gave an update on Nature Nurture Center's youth climate summit. The city is discussing creating an adaptation plan with the global covenant of mayors. **Kathryn will follow up with the EAC at the next meeting on developing this plan.**

Ian gave an update on the EAC priority list as well as a plastic bag ban. A plastic bag ban will be discussed at a future meeting.

Miranda mentioned composting information available in the Teams channel. An average of 60-70lb of food waste has been collected each week for about the last 10 weeks from Easton Public Market farmstand. Lisa Pammer from Green Pond Packaging sent Ian an email regarding national compost week (first full week of May), **Ian will follow up with the mayor & the city for publicity.** Due to timing it is unlikely this will be observed this year but EAC can pursue next year with more lead time.

Tony gave an update on LANTA's finalization of their June 2023 services changes, including changes to the cross valley LANTA Blue Line running every 30 minutes until 1am within city limits. The Lafayette Master Plan was mentioned, Tony would like to see involvement with Lafayette at the EAC. **Tony will follow up with Liam Thompson from Lafayette running the walkability study downtown.**

Miranda called out for volunteers to help gather compost and food waste around the city. Miranda is seeking landfill data from the city to compare to the compost program and land for processing compost locally. **Miranda to update Composting document in teams Waste and Reuse channel.** Needed tasks include help with hands-on compost assistance, confirming the city's municipal waste details and landfill data, and creating a list of potential partners (farms, businesses, etc.) for a composting site (please don't contact anyone regarding this yet - just ideas to brainstorm and return to later). Contact Miranda for more details.

Communications/Education

Riverfront, Southside hill, and Confluence lot cleanups were discussed. Mary emphasized the importance of cleaning storm drains for stormwater management. Tony will reach out to Lehigh Valley Tract Pact on promoting the Thrive / Karl Stirner Arts trail cleanup on May 27th. Robert mentioned internship and volunteer credit hours. **Miranda to follow up with Rob C on Smith Ave hill cleanup project.**

Ian discussed with the planning commission chair on getting a volunteer from the planning commission to be part of the EAC as required by the EAC's ordinance.

Ian sent the comments Louisa Durkin created to LANTA regarding their June service changes.

Ian was looking for any ideas regarding the May 18th native species day.

City Urban Forestry Update

No updates on Urban Forestry.

Paul discussed green space inventory and reducing hardscape - less paving and concrete. The green space inventory map created by Miranda was discussed, and potentially having future walking tours in the summer when it's warmer.

Ian showed pictures of Lafayette College's clear cutting of trees for the expansion of walking/biking trail going up to the college from downtown. Many mature trees were cut down as part of the project along the hillside. **Ian will work on writing a draft letter recommendation going to both the city and Lafayette.** Ian made the motion for the EAC to create a letter of concern to send to City Council and Lafayette college about the tree cutting occurring on steep slopes for the trail connection. The motion was seconded by Robert, voted on 3-0.

New Business

Nick wants to discuss better bicycle infrastructure at the next meeting.

No other new business.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.