

MEETING: 06/06/2023

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

Attendees

In person: Ian Kindle, Robert MacDonald, Tony Klapatch, Mary Arlia, Paul Schalow, Miranda Wilcha, Nick Gorski, Ryan Myszkowski

Virtual: Molly Bilinski, Jon Zeller, Kathryn Semmens, Maggie Beetstra, Steve Althouse

Agenda

EAC Organization and Priorities

May meeting minutes were approved unanimously (2-0), Robert made the motion, Ian seconded.

Ian has been in communication with the mayor's office on 3 pending member approvals. Patti Bruno will be stepping up to fill our ordinance required planning commission seat. Appointments are expected from the city at the June 14th city council meeting. Miranda Wilcha arrived after this discussion.

Public Comments

Ian followed up on bird migration and dark skies with public works director Dave Hopkins. There are around 1610 street lights, with around 300 controlled by the city and the rest by Met-Ed. The lights are controlled by photocells, so they should not always be on. Met-Ed currently has lifetime ownership of

the street lights they open and would like to continue to own them since they are a significant off-peak revenue source for Met-Ed. Discussion ensued on if bird migration patterns would be improved by LED lights vs. existing halogen lights as well as the string lights in the trees in Centre Square. **Ian will follow up with Dave Hopkins to see if the EAC can reach out to Met-Ed. Robert will look at potential grant opportunities. Nick will look at existing dark sky ordinances in Pittsburgh and Paul in Phillipsburg.**

No new public comments were offered.

Easton Climate Action Plan

Kate is currently working to get greenhouse gas inventory data from FirstEnergy. Kathryn is expecting more information by the fall. Maggie is working on the adaptation and hazard mitigation plan based on the climate action plan as well as vulnerability and climate assessments. Maggie is expecting to ask for EAC feedback within the next few months.

There is no update on the next Climate Action Plan task force meeting.

Miranda is seeking someone with a truck for getting finished compost back for the compost program. Compost dropoff site at Lower Hackett has been continuously busy. Miranda discussed with My Little Farm stand from the West Ward Market for working together on a compost processing site. Public works could potentially help with transportation of compost, the EAC will reach out to them. Miranda received waste and trash information from the city. Around 9000 homes are currently being serviced with approximately 9000 tons of trash. A new compost collection site downtown is being looked into and different survey options to seek public input. **Miranda will ask Rob for the EAC email list from former member Janet.**

Tony stated that LANTA service changes are going into effect on June 19th. The EAC will host a bus outing to an ice cream place on June 30th at 5:30pm from the Easton Intermodal Bus Terminal. **Tony will work on promotional material for the event.**

Nick asked about the Northampton St bike lane project and the grant the city was pursuing. Discussion ensued on bike lanes into College Hill and South Side. **Tony will follow up at the June 14 city council meeting to ask about the Northampton St bike lane grant status.**

Possible school connections and service learning field trips for community gardens education were discussed. School year constraints can be an issue. **Ian will connect Robert with school board president Meg Sayago to get more information about students volunteering and visiting gardens during the school day.**

Communications/Education

An EAC organized litter cleanup day along Smith Ave going into the South Side was discussed. **Mary will discuss the trash cleanup with Rob Christopher.**

The Lehigh Valley Trash Pact event went well.

Ian attached a document in teams for the 2023 annual report to council and asked members to review.

City Urban Forestry Update

No city forester updates.

WeConserve selected the City of Easton to look into a green space survey as a GIS test case for their network of EACs. Discussion ensued on the amount of detail that would be in the survey. Ian made a motion to take on a GIS project to map green spaces in Downtown or another TBD neighborhood. Robert seconded. Passed unanimously (3-0-0). **Paul, Mary and Miranda (?) volunteered to organize the project with Ian.**

Ian gave an update on the Lafayette College hillside clearing. An erosion and sedimentation plan was required, however there hasn't been any update with the plan. Rob Christopher has been working with Lafayette on the re-vegetation plan with a total of 96 trees planned with some along the slope and others around the city. Shrubbery and lower vegetation options are still being

explored, Ian is taking suggestions on behalf of the EAC. The under construction walkways will allow watering tanks to irrigate future plantings. Rob C and Ian to meet with Lafayette to discuss tree planting and hillside revegetation.

New Business

No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.