

MEETING: 08/01/2023

Opened at 6:01pm / City Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room & Virtually on Zoom

Attendees

In person (members): Ian Kindle, Robert MacDonald, Paul Schalow, Beth Freeman, Stacy Melvin, Nick Gorski

Virtual (members): Mary Arlia

Members absent: Patti Bruno, Miranda Wilcha

In person (public): Tony Klapatch, Vincent Caminneci, Lisa Pammer, Louisa Durkin

Virtual (public): Molly Bilinski, Maggie Beetstra, Jon Zeller, Kathryn Semmens

Because Miranda Wilcha and Patti Bruno are absent tonight, Nick Gorski will be a voting member.

Agenda

EAC Organization and Priorities

July meeting minutes approval: Ian moved, Beth seconded. July meeting minutes were passed 6-0-0.

A reorganization meeting will be scheduled for September, **Ian will send out a poll to get the best day and time.**

Other Lehigh Valley and state EAC bylaws were looked into. Robert and Nick mentioned Allentown's ordinance having special powers for the EAC to establish

standing committees, associate members, sub-committees, and taskforces. Robert gave Lower Saucon Township as an example that has non-resident associate members to assist the EAC. Ian was not sure what we can adopt as by-laws versus what is on our EAC ordinance, ordinance changes can be time consuming. Beth mentioned our current ordinance being open on what the EAC can do. **Nick will post the Allentown bylaws for EAC members to review in Teams** for possible adoption in the September meeting. Robert discussed having a member of city council on the EAC, discussion ensued on how this would need to be done - ordinance or bylaw.

Patti is absent tonight, but will check in with the rest of the planning commission on EAC involvement at the August 2nd planning commission meeting.

Public Comments

Ian has not received any update on a dark sky ordinance and city lighting. Paul mentioned having lighting plans being reviewed for land developments by the EAC, Beth mentioned the planning commission probably already having this. Nick inquired about the process of having an ordinance introduced to city council. **Mary wants to table discussion of an ordinance until after the EAC visioning meeting.**

Easton Climate Action Plan

Ian mentioned the July CAP task force meeting was held in late July with discussion around recommending a Climate Adaptation plan to the city. Beth asked about what the CAP task force is, Ian and Kathryn explained that the city engaged Nurture Nature Center to help enact the CAP and organize the CAP task force after the climate action plan was developed. The purpose of the CAP task force is to identify ways the city can act on the city climate action plan. Ian sits on the CAP task force as the EAC representative.

Kathryn mentioned the reasoning behind having an adaptation plan and the recommendations from the Global Covenant of Mayors. The Nurture Nature Center staff is preparing a draft in the next month or so for the EAC and CAP task force to provide feedback. Louisa was glad to see the sustainability manager position now being taken seriously by the city at this task force meeting.

No update on composting, Miranda is absent. Nick mentioned the cost increase of the trash contract for the city and trying to reduce our total trash output with an increase in composting. Ian mentioned that this may be better handled by a separate program not related to the trash contract. Discussion ensued regarding other cities and how they handle the calculation of trash weight and composting. Ian suggested that if we can get weight data on trash collection it might provide data for

Beth inquired about how we can be advocates in the EAC with Ian discussing how we can advise and make recommendations to city council. Robert mentioned the powers the ordinance gives us. Tony mentioned a few recent grants that the city has applied for regarding transportation. Louisa mentioned PennDOT being a large hurdle for road improvements. Vincent mentioned the city being very focused on improving the experience for non-car based travel. Paul inquired about having bicycle counters within the city to get better data of bike usage, Louisa suggested partnering with Hearst. This will be discussed further at the visioning meeting.

Tony followed up with LANTA a few weeks ago and has not received any recent correspondence back. **Tony will follow up once more with LANTA.**

No updates on community gardens, Miranda is absent.

Robert will reach back out to the Easton Area School District regarding engaging high school students in community garden education/volunteering.

Communications/Education

Ian invited other seated members to help run the EAC social media accounts.

Nick suggested waiting for the visioning meeting to further discuss volunteer ideas. Partnering with local neighborhood groups was suggested by Nick for future trash cleanups. **Beth will discuss with the South Side Civic Association.**

Louisa inquired about how long and what the annual report should include. Robert read the ordinance on what the annual report should contain.

City Urban Forestry Update

No city forester updates, Rob Christopher is absent.

Ian is trying to get a meeting setup with Dave Hopkins on if the city's current ArcGIS can be used for the WeConverse GIS project.

Ian has not heard any further action or plans regarding the Lafayette Trail Hillside Clearing. Ian has been monitoring issues with the slope from the ground. Rob and Ian had a meeting with Lafayette College to accommodate for the trees that were removed but are still waiting for a definite landscaping plan. Louisa mentioned valuing the amount of the cut trees and seeing if the city could issue a fine to Lafayette.

New Business

Beth mentioned the flooding from the rain last month and inquired if anyone is monitoring impacts. Ian mentioned public works clearing obstructions from roads and culverts.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm; motioned by Ian, seconded by Robert. 6-0-0.