

Easton Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 5, 2025

Time: 6:02 PM

Location: City Hall & Online (Hybrid Meeting)

Recording Started: 6:02 PM

Attendance

Members: Nick Gorski, Stacy Melvin, Robert MacDonald (virtual), Ian Kindle

Associate Members: Paul Schalow

Public: Kate Semmens (virtual), Dan K (virtual), Molly Bilinski (v)

1. Call to Order & Agenda Approval

- Meeting called to order at 6:07 PM.
- **Motion:** Ian K. motioned to approve the agenda. Stacy seconded.
- **Vote:** Approved (4-0)

2. Approval of July Meeting Minutes

- No amendments

Motion: Stacy M motioned to approve the amended minutes. Robert M seconded.

Vote: Approved (4-0).

3. Reports & Updates

a. Climate Action Plan (CAP) & Nature Nurture Center

- **Kate Semmens:** CAP Task Force meeting, reviewed accomplishments and CDP reporting - feedback needed to improve. Updating GHG inventory and working on amended mid range goal next steps. City Council would need to approve interim goal. Recommend keeping adopted goal and adopt an additional midrange goal for accountability. Brandon reviewing memo drafted by NNC RE: interim goal. Lafayette senior capstone class proposed for assisting in updating vulnerability assessment. NNC working on building events around Oct Climate Action Month. NNC to promote. Ask for EAC event proposal. Public arts installation reveal planned.
- **Paul:** Requested info on what science based target means. Kate clarified.

- **Ian:** When would Lafayette know if students sign up for vulnerability as capstone? Likely early fall. Ian asked if NCC handshake system could also be used. Kate said probably need a funded intern position for that.
- **Nick:** Question regarding 65% reduction goal - Brandon not sure on timing related to adoption.

b. Greenspace Mapping

- **Ian Kindle:** Added points in May and July. 50 points added
- Discussed the challenges with city ArcGIS account and lack of credits/cost.

c. Transportation

- **Nick:** City and LVTS announcing grants for transportation projects - improvements to Larry Holmes Dr etc. Nick and Stacy plan to attend announcement on 8/6. LANTA to Musikfest is nice.

d. Waste & Recycling

- **Mary Arlia:** Absent.
- **Recap from June meeting: Brandon:** Planning a "Tour and Learn" compost initiative:
- Recent EAC Cleanup events recap - locations: **West Ward 5-6**, then Sat **Farmers Market 8:30**, getting consistently better turnout.

e. Communications

- **Robert:** Planning commission meeting - brought up to chair moving EAC meeting to a mid month date to less conflict with Planning Commission. Planning Commission reorganizing. RM suggests EAC members attend Planning Commission work meetings. Could partner on noise and other environmental issues.

f. Sustainability Initiatives

- **Brandon Sullivan:** Absent

g. City Urban Forestry

- **Rob Christopher:** Intense heat, much watering needed. Recent plantings counted to USDA grant project. Southside letters sent to offer tree work from grant - mature honeylocusts need to be removed to repair sidewalks. Getting back signed agreements. Some pruning, also tree replacements. Resident street tree projects - watering becoming an issue with Rob being the only person to do this work. Agreements with

residents to have to care for and water trees. Searching for replacement for Assistant City Forester position. DCNR West Ward grant - treeplantings in west ward still to do including tree well cutouts. Tree removals on riverside near Scott Park. Boulders to be removed along fenceline, and more swings installed. Some of riparian tree removal also due to homelessness issues.

- Oct 11 (raindate Oct 12) - City Climate Event (details?)
- Nick: Could residents assist with tree watering? Issue with lack of equipment for watering to get water to the trees by anyone but Rob.
- Robert M: Could city offer some agreement to landlords to give incentive to renters to maintain street trees. Rob thought maybe possible.

h. Membership Updates

- Nick reached out to Ken Greene to see if moving our meeting might get some traction for our planning commission member.
- Nick to outreach to Delicia Nahman at **Lafayette College** to recruit student associate members, perhaps from the capstone class
- **Motion:** Nick motioned, and Ian second sending description of open seat to Tracey Werner for city publication..
- A membership vacancy will be publicly posted throughout the city.

4. Public Comments

- None

5. Continuing Business

a. Moving EAC meeting to third Wednesday

- Nick moved to change monthly meeting schedule for 2026 to the third wednesday of the month from the first tuesday. Stacy seconded. Nick spoke regarding moving meeting away from standing Planning Commission meeting. Challenge to prepare statements for upcoming planning commission or city council meetings. Nick planning to check with Council. Nick moved to close debate, Ian seconded (approved 4-0). Nick called for final vote, passed 4-0.
- Ian asked if Kate or Rob C had any conflicts.

6, New Business

a. Kate Semmens Associate Membership

- Nick motioned to appoint Kate as an associate member. Ian seconded. Nick explained that each reporting member should be an associate membership. Kate accepted. Ian agrees. All agree. Debate was closed, Nick called vote, unanimous pass (4-0).

b. Formation of Dark Skies ad hoc committee

- Stacy discussed working document toward dark skies ordinance. Experts may attend from Pittsburgh Sept meeting. Looking at what city has in place currently. Nick questioned what the first steps would be to act on this issue. Robert M spoke to gathering a committee of experienced advisors. Paul mentioned article re: Met Ed trying to reduce amount of blackouts. Met Ed changing to LED fixtures. Frank Pintabone may have some inroad to conversations with Met Ed. Paul and Rob C also discussed issues of lighting on trees.
- Nick proposed making a Dark Skies committee, reaching out to stakeholders
- Nick moved to form a dark skies committee to serve as focal point to reduce light pollution in the city. Robert M seconds. Nick called vote, passes (4-0)
- Nick moved to appoint Stacy chair of dark skies committee, Robert M seconded, Stacy accepted. Vote passed (4-0)
- Nick moved to have Dark Skies committee request invitees such as local stakeholders to join the September meeting to hear a presentation about dark skies initiatives. Ian seconded. Vote passed (4-0). Nick mentioned special session mid month might be needed to complete business if the

c. Oct climate action week -

- Nick moves communication committee propose events for Oct climate action week. Ian seconds. Ian suggested targeting our current events. Nick to reach out to Robert M to discuss more options. Vote called, passed (4-0)

d. Plastic Waste reduction

- Tabled due to Brandon's absence

e. Letters to commissions

- Floodplain exemption - Wilson Warehouse project - Planning commission - no further information.
- (move to communications?) Robert M moved to submit message to Tracy re: dark skies and road salt reduction for publication in the city newsletter as is with any necessary edit. Ian seconds. Stacy suggested expanding the dark skies statement to be more informational to public. Vote called, passes (4-0)
- Solar City - tabled

- Nick moves to have EAC voice support in proposing science based mid term goal if resolution is presented to city council prior to our next meeting. Stacy seconds. Nick discussed goal and acceptability. Vote called. Passed (4-0)

7. Adjournment

Robert moved to adjourn, Ian seconded, Passed 4-0

Time: 7:50 PM