

Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
April 7, 2022

Attendees: EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Ben Guthrie (Secretary), Beth Behrend (Vice Chair), Ben Felzer, Katie Trembler
Guests/Community Members: Angie DelGrosso (Director of Mayor’s Initiatives), Janine Santoro (Director of Equity and Inclusion), Jane Cook, Kathy Fox, Jon Zeller, Jane Burger, Martha Christine, Josie Miserendino, Audrey McSain, Doug Roysdon, Anna Zawierucha,, Brian Nicas, Gale Maleskey

Call to Order – 7:00 PM

1. Welcome

2. Approval of minutes (March): Motion by Beth, seconded by Ben F. Approved unanimously.

3. Chair’s comments & amendments to agenda

- There will be an update on the pedestrian bridge as part of tonight’s agenda.
- Letter from Chair of Easton EAC – Easton EAC wrote a letter to LVPC earlier this year asking LVPC to develop a model ordinance for warehouses.

4. Board comments and announcements

5. Climate Action Plan

- a. Update from Angela DelGrosso, Director of Mayor’s Initiatives, and Janine Santoro, Director of Equity and Inclusion
 - There is an internal working group
 - The group is made up of implementation committees focused on short term goals, primarily over the next year.
 - Forty percent of implementation funds will be directed towards frontline communities.
 - The first public engagement event will be this spring.
 - There will be a climate challenge that consists of tangible action items that residents or organization can participate in.
 - The City recently announced a new community engagement platform – webuild.bethlehem.pa.gov.

6. Citizens’ Comments

- a. Lehigh University Climate Action Strategy (Audrey McSain) – Lehigh recently unveiled what they are calling their “Pathway to Zero”.
<https://sustainability.lehigh.edu/climate-action-strategy>

7. Committee reports

- a. **Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife** – Last week BBW volunteers completed the cleanup of the Southside Greenway Meadows. BBW has also recently started

sessions at Hoover-Mason Trestle and will be planting over 200 flowering perennials.

- b. **Waste Reduction Committee** – A few months ago the committee submitted a proposal for a plastic bag ordinance. Councilperson Wilhelm is currently reviewing the draft ordinance.
- c. **Solar Committee** – The committee is working with the Director of Planning and Zoning, Deputy Fire Chief and the Chief Building Inspector to review potential changes to the current solar ordinances. The committee will be meeting with the planning department this month to refine the ordinance changes. The committee will bring a draft proposal to next month's EAC meeting.

8. External committee reports

- a. **Monocacy Creek Watershed Association** – Working with Northampton County to develop a new rustic loop trail at Gertrude Fox. Additionally, the semi-annual trail cleanup will be on Saturday, April 30. The EAC is a sponsor of this event.
- b. **City Council** – No update.
- c. **Planning & Zoning** – The EAC submitted three letters this month regarding proposed development projects.

9. Unfinished business

- a. **Pedestrian Bridge** – Final input meeting was held on April 6. Three alternative concepts were presented. There will be a virtual community meeting on April 20, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

10. New business

- a. **Social Media** – If there is an article that may be helpful to share on the EAC Facebook page please send it to the EAC Facebook account. Katie and Lynn will be working to maintain the EAC website.

11. Agenda

- a. **Meeting Date** – The next EAC meeting will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2022.
- b. **Meeting Location** – It was agreed that we will continue with a virtual meeting in May and consider an in-person meeting, possibly outdoors, in June

12. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Guthrie, Secretary