

## Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council General Meeting Agenda

Location: Zoom meeting  
Date: July 2, 2020  
Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

EAC members present: Lynn Rothman, Brian Nicas, Beth Behrend, Ben Felzer, Ben Guthrie

Others: Nate Fisher (President Lehigh Valley Rose Society), Spencer Smith (sustainability student York College), Conner Burbridge, Mary Toulouse (Mt Airy Neighborhood Association), Brian Hilliard

### Call To Order

1. Approval of minutes (June). Minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Place citizens' comments on agenda
3. Chair's comments & amendments to agenda
  - Mike Topping not able to attend due to hip surgery. We wish him all the best.
  - Barabara Malt invited Lynn to post notices of EAC events on Lehigh Valley Birdtown Coalition meetup page. Lynn posted notice of tonight's meeting.
  - Sustainability Officer Letter: EAC sent a letter recommending that the City of Bethlehem hire a sustainability officer to help implement the CAP. Sent to City Council, Mayor, WSP representative – support from WSP and Councilman Reynolds. Suggest reading aloud during the public comment period at City Council meeting
  - Letter of support for the City's application for the Walkworks grant to PA Department of Health: transportation plan for the Broad Street West corridor
4. Board comments and announcements: None
5. Committee reports
  - a. Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (BBFW)
  - b. Waste Reduction Committee: (Conner, Beth): Easton is providing venue for people to compost food scraps at their farmers market, facilitated by American BioSoils. Need \$4-5000 – just missed grant deadline, so are there city funds available? Also can be promoted within the CAP. Possible to self-fund with \$20/year/person donations. Ben G. asked about the City doing it at their yardwaste facility, but this has already been rejected due to presence of food scraps lying around on site. Lynn

suggested contacting Kathy Fox as the food co-op might be a good site once their grocery store opens. Spencer is interested in seeing what can be done at York College and his community.

6. External committee reports

a. City Council

b. Planning: Westgate Mall; 1355 Easton Rd. Phase 2

- 1355 Easton Rd: Comments by Public Works Dept. – Forestry recommend planting 2 trees and state a shortfall of required landscaping. Consensus that the EAC draft letter in support of the City letter to make every attempt to follow required landscaping guidelines and consider energy efficient design for building.
- Westgate Mall: Within current footprint of mall, so no need to act on.

c. Zoning

7. Unfinished business

a. Climate Action Plan: 2 repeat stakeholder meetings held on June 17 (many EAC members attended); mitigation subgroup sectors forming – need 1 person to represent each subgroup as follows:

Transportation & Mobility: Ben G.

Food/Product sourcing and Waste: Beth or Elisabeth

Education and Behavior Change: Ben F.

Land Use & Green Space: Lynn

Buildings: Residential and Commercial: maybe Elisabeth?

Brian H. suggested he would like to represent Transportation & Mobility, and Environmental and Climate Justice – particularly to encourage participation amongst the Hispanic community. Hold actual stakeholder meetings in Spanish, not just as a translation. It was suggested to reach out to Olga Negrón.

8. New business

a. Rose Garden (Nate Fisher): Every Saturday morning, volunteers (organized by the Mt Airy Neighborhood Association, and including Council President Adam Waldren) work on deweeding and applying mulch to the rose garden. Rosette disease is a virus carried by mites to roses and is spreading in the Rose garden, affecting over 30 rose bushes that have been tagged so far. Cause death in 1-3 years – need to be removed and new plantings. Need around \$10,000 from the City to replant, and seeking grant from the organization that helped originally plant the roses. New roses are disease and pest resistant, attract bees, and repeat flower – modern varieties that look like the older ones, and working to maintain same color scheme. Brian N. suggested working with BBFW to plant natives, some of which is already underway.

b. Table at Rose Garden Farmers Market: 8<sup>th</sup> and West Raspberry Saturdays from June to October between 9-1. Lynn suggested a table to give away wildflower seeds – EAC suggested using that opportunity to

promote the CAP and disseminate CAP surveys. Contact Mary Toulouse at [18018Mana@gmail.com](mailto:18018Mana@gmail.com). Must provide own table.

9. Agenda for next meeting

10. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Felzer