

Allentown Environmental Advisory Council – Revised May Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2019 – City Hall – 5th floor conference room

Attendees: Tinku Khanwalkar, Dave Melman, Tim Duch, Liz Hunt, Keith Hespeth

Absent – Jennifer

Guest – Felicia Heinsohn

1) Review and Approval of April minutes - motion by Liz to approve, seconded by Dave - unanimously approved; subsequently corrected to replace Liz's name with Jennifer's for preparing list of items for Courtney Robinson to discuss with solicitor

2) Solar Resolution – Tinku recused herself due to potential conflict of interest posed by proposed statement to support state solar energy bills which prohibit utilities from owning solar generation. Motion to approve proposed resolution as modified by Courtney Robinson was made by Liz and seconded by Dave; unanimously approved. Dave to notify Courtney Robinson.

3) Review of April Action items:

-Plastic bank: Per Jennifer prior report, the plastic bank is not possible at this time due to cost.

-Plastic straws: Dave to research by July what percentage of businesses would be affected by plastic straw ban or incentive (ideally 20-25% or greater). Liz to talk to Miriam at Allentown Chamber regarding Chamber members from city of Allentown and thoughts/lists of businesses. Tim to generate ideas on marketing of concept and implementation for rule/ban/incentive program.

-Recycling in Schools: Tim and Dave attended the School board meeting but due to financial and budget crisis opted to remain silent until next meeting. Liz to try and attend with Dave and Tim next meeting – Thursday May 23.

-Public works – Dave has been unable to attend meeting of Public Works department staff yet. Liz said she would work with him to ensure someone could attend – need info for when the meeting occurs – Dave to send to Liz. Liz to follow up with Kristin Barringer about her initiative on making Allentown Beautiful.

-Updating Ordinance No. 14566 (that established the EAC): Tinku to provide suggested updates at July EAC meeting. Among the updates she will suggest is to add a requirement that one council member must be a member of the EAC; and to enable the EAC to vote for its own chair (rather than being designated by the Mayor).

-List of items for Courtney Robinson to review with City Solicitor re: climate action and plastic straws – will be prepared by Dave, Tim and Jennifer and presented in June meeting

- Iron Pigs @ July Agriculture Day: Liz still trying to confirm our table for the event.

-Carbon footprint: Cassandra Magliioni at City of Allentown has agreed to compile data on building energy use (electric and gas) and fleet vehicle gasoline and diesel use. Targeting July for follow up. Keith to research how methane emissions are measured and report back at June meeting.

-EAC input on Green Infrastructure: Tinku mentioned that Angie DuBuis wants EAC input on where green infrastructure would be beneficial for the City to consider. Keith to develop recommended sites in June. Tim to help – territory must be within city of Allentown.

4) Presentation by Felicia Heinsohn regarding her TV show (Organic Eleganz) and potential opportunities for the Allentown EAC to work with her on community outreach.