

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
November 2, 2017**

Attendees: Council members: Lynn Rothman, John Brunner, Jack Gambino, Brian Hillard, Kalyna Procyk and Mike Topping. Also in attendance were Kathy Fox and Javier Toro.

Approval of October Minutes: After a few corrections, Lynn moved approval; seconded by Jack; approved.

Citizens' Comments: Kathy reported that she enjoyed the recent **Watershed Conference** but was somewhat disappointed in the Greening the Gray topic which had a limited view of how to add green to our public spaces. Mike noted that his favorite topic was the talk on Cougars migrating to the East Coast from the western part of the country and the MS4 talk given by the Public Works director of Lancaster who described the many initiatives they have taken to redesign their streetscapes with trees and gardens as well as providing for various improved storm water and traffic controls.

Kathy attended a Food Waste Reduction Conference at Lafayette College conducted by the EPA where they discussed various ways to reduce the amount of food waste in the Lehigh Valley, including distribution of excess food to those in need, education and reuse of food waste for livestock and composting. She expects to receive data from the EPA concerning Bethlehem and how this topic could be addressed here in the City. John noted that it is difficult to compost when you live in an apartment or row house with little or no backyard, but Brian noted that people in other cultures take it for granted to reuse waste and find ways to accomplish this through community programs. Kalyna said that this has been a topic for years in the area, but that various problems have to be dealt with including storage, transportation and finding someone who will take the waste and then deciding if the process is economically sustainable. Everyone agreed that this topic should be addressed in the Climate Action Plan for the City.

Chair's comments: Lynn noted that the tree planting for an improved riparian buffer along the east side of the Saucon Creek in Saucon Park took place and Mike noted that 41 trees and a number of bushes were installed.

Committee Reports:

BBFW: None

Transportation: None

External Committee Reports:

City Council – None

Planning - None

Zoning - None

Unfinished Business:

Climate Action Plan for City of Bethlehem: Lynn met with Councilman William Reynolds, Assistant City Clerk Robert Vidoni and Solicitor John Spirk. They agreed that five committees should be set up to cover the various subjects to be studied in the plan and that the committees should use the EAC as a sounding board for their findings. Each committee, consisting of between five to ten members, could present their findings at separate EAC meetings where they would be discussed and presented to the public for input and comment. Possible time limits for presentations and the need for some written documentation to accompany the presentations was recommended. Energy, Green Building Design, Transportation, Green Infrastructure and Waste & Recycling are presently under consideration as the subjects to be studied. (Under Green Infrastructure, drinking water facilities and the sanitary sewer system, including the sewage treatment plant should be included) These working groups and their subject matter may change or evolve as the committees start their research and make their findings known.

The committees will be encouraged to obtain members with expertise in their area of study. Experts from industry and business should be welcomed to be a part of each working group as well as local college professors and their students who have studied in the appropriate fields. Part of each report should include a time frame for implementation of the recommendation as well as any known or anticipated costs to the City. After further discussion, the EAC agreed that a paid manager/sustainability director or environmental consultant may be necessary to coordinate and schedule all of the various committee activities to insure timely and completed reports. This position could be filled by a consultant on a temporary basis or become a permanent part of the City Administration. There are consultants that do this kind of work exclusively and many of the local engineering firms have people on staff who have environmental degrees and could possibly do this work. Kathy described various sources for funding for this position. Although this plan is initially intended to serve the needs of the City, Brian noted that if this is done correctly, it could act as a template for other municipalities in the State.

2017 Year End Report: Lynn presented a draft of the year end report which will be sent to City Council and the Mayor.

Next Meeting: December 7, 2017.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm