

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council  
General Meeting  
December 7, 2017**

**Attendees:** Council members: Lynn Rothman (via phone), John Brunner, Jack Gambino, Brian Hillard, and Mike Topping. Also in attendance were Rosanne Amano, Samantha Cartagena, Rogelio Castillo and City Council Members Michael Colón, Olga Negrón and William Reynolds.

**Approval of October Minutes:** After a few corrections, John moved approval; seconded by Mike; approved.

**Citizens' Comments:** Rogelio has recently moved here from New York and enjoys spending time with his children at Monocacy Park. However, he has noticed a lot of trash in the area and offered to help organize a "Social Purpose Organization" which would promote clean-up activities at the park as well as other areas in the city. He was advised to contact the City Recreation Department for help in determining what other organizations are already interested in this type of activity and how he could coordinate with them as well as with City Staff.

Lynn also suggested contacting the Trail Tenders of the Lehigh Valley, who are under the umbrella of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. They have a page on Facebook with information and sign-up link <https://m.facebook.com/TrailTendersLV/>

**Chair's comments:** Lynn thanked City Council for the \$150 line item for the EAC in this year's budget. and noted that Kathy Fox has applied to become a member of the EAC. She also reported that Widner University will have a sustainability seminar on December 12. Lafayette College has a sustainability conference scheduled for February 17.

**Committee Reports:**

**BBFW:** Rosanne reported they had a great photography exhibit recently and had a meeting at the Rose Garden where over fifty people attended. Future projects include working on the Rose Garden next year.

**Transportation:** None

**External Committee Reports:**

**City Council** – Nothing to report concerning environmental issues.

**Planning** - None

**Zoning** - None

**Unfinished Business:** Councilman Reynolds gave a brief history of the need for a **Climate Action Plan**, especially due to the recent attitude of our federal government agencies, and reminded everyone that City Council will have a Committee of the Whole Meeting on the City Climate Action Plan next Wednesday. He will try and email the members an outline of the issues to be covered before the meeting. He noted that because of the official attitude in Washington, many state and local agencies and organizations have taken up the cause on their own to create climate action plans, which they intend to follow, and to educate the public about the need for environmentally sensitive and sustainable policies. President Reynolds stated that the EAC, which was championed by former council member Karen Dolan primarily for such a purpose, should be a major partner in this effort.

Although the City has taken a lead position in some areas, other cities have done much more. Many mayors and other government officials throughout the country have signed on in support of climate agreements. With the enthusiasm of many he has talked to in the area, Councilman Reynolds is convinced that many of our goals can be accomplished and positive change can come to improve and protect our environment in the Bethlehem area. A first step is to develop a city goal for next year based on a review of all city functions and how they can be improved using less energy. Next, he would like to develop a way to encourage our large institutions, industries, businesses and individual citizens to take part in this effort.

Finally, Councilman Reynolds would like to develop a way to measure the total energy use in the city. This would require the cooperation of PPL and UGI among others, but he is confident that this could be done. The above three steps are considered phase one to be completed in 2018. Phase two would be to hire a consultant to help develop the plan and then coordinate its implementation. The EAC should be involved with the development of a RFP for this position.

**Next Meeting:** January 4, 2018. **Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm**