

Allentown Environmental Commission (AEC)

P.O. Box 487, 8 North Main Street

Allentown, New Jersey 08501

3 August 2023

Minutes



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order in by Chairperson Bill Cotte at 6:35 p.m., and the following statement was read:

“In compliance with the ‘Open Public Meetings Act’, Chapter 231, PL 1975, Section 5, adequate notice has been given of this meeting by posting a Notice in the lobby of the Borough Hall, a public space; on the Borough’s website, Face Book page, and Twitter account and by transmitting a notice to two newspapers, THE TIMES and the ASBURY PARK PRESS, as required by law.”

Flag Salute

Role call - Present: Bill Cotte, Patricia Brown, Nancy Tindall, Wil Borkowski, Greg Westfall, Kristine Hyer, Jakober and Jeff Ploshay (until 6:53), and Councilwoman Johnson; Absent: Rick Jakober and Jennifer Elder Brady. A quorum was present.

Approval of agenda - Motion to approve by Nancy Tindall and 2nd Patricia Brown; motion passed.

Minutes Review

A motion was made by Greg Westfall and 2nd Jeff Ploshay to approve the July 6, 2023 meeting minutes; motion passed.

Public Comments see below

New Business

- Welcome to new member Kristine Hyer
- Parks- environmental evaluation meeting at the Pearl Street Parking lot for Sara Barnes Park, Sgt. Ashby Park, and Sensi Park.

Jan Meerwarth, Chair of Parks and Public Spaces, Terry Brown, Chair of Shade Tree Commission, Linda Cotte, Chair of Economic Development Commission, Councilwoman Darling, Councilman Elder participated in the Parks walk through and provided commentary:

Sara Barnes Park: Councilwoman Darling reported that Sara Barnes Park will be part of the next grant application and suggested better playground equipment. Comments were made about the condition of the plantings in the Park. Terry said the plantings were appropriate but they needed thinning out and care. Linda suggested new fencing and perhaps cleaning up the

entrance to the Park. She suggested reaching out to Borough Clerk, Laurie Roth to see about new benches and plaques for the Parks.

Sgt. George Ashby Park: Jan said that the Borough residents had worked with a landscape architect with 3 concept designs that were publically viewed and voted on. There have been 2 phases thus far.

Councilwoman Darling said there was a need for housing of the DPW equipment and also suggested a Clean Street/ Park Day. Councilman Elder said there was going to be a new chipper to help with clean ups.

Nancy suggested an Adopt a Park for businesses or schools or residents. She said that the Environmental Commission should be better stewards and monitor and make sure Open Space is cared for and the Green Acres Funding stewardship program is continued.

Linda said that many residents have requested a pickleball court in the Borough.

Wil stated that there should be a buffer between residential housing and the parks and Terry spoke about a need for intentional demarcations between public park land and private land, perhaps fences, possibly natural, living fence.

Bill said the parks in general needed better maintenance and signage needed to be addressed. He questioned if there was a maintenance plan for the parks. He said that he would contact Laurie Roth and schedule a meeting with her and Nick Pellichero, DPW supervisor. Presently, there are shared services for mowing.

Pat said not only is there environmental stewardship to realize but Pride of Place is important for the Borough and its residents. People come from other communities to use our parks and they should be a showcase.

Councilwoman Darling said that she would look into planning a town clean up day working with all the commissions and a Clean Communities Grant in preparation for the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War.

Adjournment There being no further business, a motion was made by Greg Westfall and 2nd Wil Borkowski to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.; motion passed.

Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, September 7, 2023, 7:00 PM in person at Borough Hall and on Zoom.