

2017 Report of Allentown EAC

The Allentown Environmental Advisory Council submits the following annual report pursuant to Ordinance 14800:

- The EAC has met monthly and continued to perform its functions despite never having all 7 positions on the Council filled. At this point there are four vacancies and only three members on the Council. Two vacancies are Council-appointed positions and two are Mayor-appointed positions.
- Major actions taken by the Allentown EAC in 2017 are listed below in roughly chronological order:
 1. Worked with the City to make the EAC web page more easily accessible by the public by enhancing its visibility on the City's website
 2. Worked with the City to increase transparency on environmental matters by consolidating environmental information from various sources into the EAC web page
 3. Worked with City to have Allentown EAC meetings listed on the City calendar so as to encourage greater public participation
 4. Published an article about Invasive plants in Adventure Allentown
 5. Continued conversations with the Parks and Recreation Department on the importance of proper stream buffer management
 6. Received an overview of the City's stormwater program from the Public Works department and provided EAC input on stormwater management, green infrastructure and the utility credit program
 7. Received information from the Lehigh County Authority on the stormwater blending proposal and provided EAC input at public meetings on the proposal
 8. Served on steering committees for Jordan Creek Greenway, Jordan Park Skate Park and Valania Park and provided input at public meetings about projects at those parks
 9. Issued letter to Parks and Recreation Department requesting proper consideration of stormwater impacts at the Jordan Park Skate Park and offering assistance with finding funding for green infrastructure at future park projects
 10. Provided EAC input to City regarding avian deterrence methods being used at Lake Muhlenberg
 11. Issued letter to Mayor Pawlowski thanking him for joining 300 other "climate mayors" and encouraging the City to take additional measures such as investigating the feasibility of procuring 100 percent renewable energy and publicly posting the energy usage of each municipal building
 12. Met with staff of City Center Investment Corporation to discuss bird strike mitigation measures at Tower 6

13. Obtained approval to hold an EAC educational event at a Phantoms game at PPL Center in March, 2018. The event will include about 8 booths by various organizations
14. Created an advisory position on the Council to encourage non-residents to participate more fully in EAC meetings
15. Received presentation from Councilman David McGuire on plans to develop a parcel on South Mountain that was previously used as a Christmas tree farm. The EAC raised with City Council a concern about this plan, and requested that Council commission a study of the environmental value of the parcel so that the zoning board is fully informed before taking action
16. Submitted letter to City Council in support of Stormwater Management Fund