

Meeting Minutes
City of Reading Environmental Advisory Council
Tuesday, June 24th, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the City of Reading Environmental Advisory Council (“EAC”) was held for the transaction of general business on Tuesday, June the 24th, 2025, virtually *via* Zoom. The meeting was originally scheduled to be held in person at Centre Park, but due to the extreme heat, and no one having registered to provide public comment, the Chair decided to hold the meeting *via* Zoom instead.

EAC members present: A. Sellers; S. Thompson; B. Vitale; C. Curran-Myers; and D. Beane

Others present: B. Ayers-Fisher; C. Miller; and S. Wangolo

Call To Order

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 12.05 P.M. by Chair S. Thompson.

Public Comment

None

Administrative Matters

Minutes from the EAC’s May 27th, 2025 meeting were approved unanimously upon motion of Mr. Beane, seconded by Ms. Curran-Myers. The agenda for the meeting requests approval for minutes from the EAC’s April 22nd, 2025 meeting. Those minutes are believed to have been approved at the EAC’s regularly scheduled May 2025 meeting.

Upcoming Meetings, Events and Staff Updates

Ms. Ayers-Fisher provided an update on the following: 1. Wacky-Water Wednesdays have started, and assistance with table staffing would be appreciated; 2. Berks Nature’s quarterly inter-municipal meeting is scheduled for June the 25th, the topic being invasives; 3. a Good Medicine event at Riverview Park is scheduled for June the 28th, with a cleanup to follow-staffing assistance at the City’s table would be appreciated at the event; 4. progress with the Mayor’s summer youth program helping to maintain the City’s 21 parks was reported; 5. a Comcast public service announcement on the City’s electronic recycling program is scheduled to air during the week of June the 30th; 6. City Hall’s double-hung window recaulking and rehang project is commencing; and 7. service upgrades to Baer and Pendora Parks are ongoing.

Mr. Wangolo provided an update on the City's Vision Zero Plan and on efforts to update the City's ordinances to address short term rental issues.

Old Business

- *Beekeeping/Zoning*: Mr. Beane provided an update on the status of the amendment. Awaiting Council approval.
- *Signage/Mapping Proposal, Funding*: Ms. Curran-Myers provided an update. A Fall date is targeted for completion.
- *2024 Annual Report to City Council*: The EAC's immediate past Chair is unable to deliver the Report. Mr. Thompson as the current Chair will deliver the Report instead once a date has been selected.
- *Use of E-Bikes*: No update in the absence of Mr. Cole.

New Business

- None.

Project Updates

- *Communications Committee Update*: Mr. Vitale reported on the Committee's ongoing work.
- *Policy Committee Update*: Mr. Beane reported on efforts to move along the amendment to the Shade Tree Ordinance. A follow-up meeting needs to be scheduled to review the latest revisions by the City arborist. Mr. Beane also reported that a proposed single use plastics ban will be taken up this Fall in conjunction with the next quarterly inter-municipal meeting at Berks Nature, at which single use plastics will be the topic of discussion.
- *Green Infrastructure Committee Update*: Ms. Curran-Myers reported on the Committee's ongoing work.
- *Goggleworks Rain Barrel Workshop*: No report.
- *Rain Garden Installations*: Ms. Ayers-Fisher reported that a project is being planned for the Fall.
- *GESA Project Update*: Ms. Ayers-Fisher reported on progress.
- *USEPA Exide Cleanup Update*: Mr. Beane reported that efforts to form a Community Advisory Group have stalled for apparent lack of interest. USEPA is redoubling its efforts to work with local municipal officials to get the word out

about efforts to form a CAG and plans to schedule one last meeting to drum up public interest.

- *NREL Project*: No report.
- *Climate Resiliency and Sustainability Plan*: No report.
- *Urban Agriculture*: No report.
- *Technical Assistance from the Water Center at UPenn and the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center*: No report.
- *Invasive Plants/Noxious Weeds Education*: Ms. Curran-Myers reported that she would like to schedule a community walking tour this Fall.
- *MP3 Environmental Committee*: No report.
- *Stormwater/MS4 Issues*: No report.
- *Solid Waste/Recycling*: No report.
- *BCTV Program*: No report. Questions were raised about whether our BCTV program is continuing.
- *City Owned Dams*: Ms. Curran-Myers asked what is delaying efforts to remove the Bushong Dam. Ms. Ayers-Fisher reported that a turtle assessment is causing the delay.

Long Term Projects

- *Environmental Justice Issues*: No report.
- *Code Review Committee*: No report.
- *PFAs*: No report.
- *Zero Waste Plan*: No report.
- *Comprehensive Plan*: No report.
- *Flouride in Drinking Water*: No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.32 P.M. upon motion of Ms. Curran-Myers and Mr. Vitale.

The next meeting of the EAC will be held in person on Tuesday, August 12th, at Noon, at the 3rd and Spruce Playground.

Respectfully submitted by David R. Beane, Acting Secretary