



Minutes

VIRTUAL EPC /PLANNING COMMISSION JOINT MEETING

January 24, 2022

7:30 – 9:30 PM

Attendance

EPC Members (11)		Staff (Partial List)
Michael Bahleda	P	Ellen Eggerton (acting staff liaison)
Eldon Boes	P	Jessica Lassetter
Edith Cecchini	P	Jesse Maines
Alexander Clark	P	Camille Liebnitzky
Jennifer Debias	A	Amanda Dolasinski
Cynthia Elliott	P	
Oleksandr Faryga	P	
Nicole Heckman	E	
Kathie Hoekstra	P	
Michael Olex	P	
Brendan Owens	P	
William Pugh	P	
Marta Schantz	P	
		Guests (14)

P: Present; A: Absent - Unexcused; E: Absent – Excused – N: Not a member

FY2022 Environmental Policy Commission Attendance Summary														
Member's Name	2021							2022						% Attendance
	30-Aug	20-Sep	25-Sep	18-Oct	20-Oct	15-Nov	13-Dec	24-Jan	28-Feb	21-Mar	18-Apr	16-May	20-Jun	
Michael Bahleda	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%
Edith Cecchini	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%
Alexander Clark	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%
Cynthia Elliott	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	P						100%
Oleksandr Faryga								P						100%
Nicole Heckman	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	E						63%
Kathie Hoekstra	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%
Jennifer Debias	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A						88%
Michael Olex	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%
Brendan Owens	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%
William Pugh	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P						88%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%

1. Welcome and introduce new member

The Environmental Policy Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Hoekstra at 7:30 PM. New member, Oleksandr Faryga, shared his background

2. Administrative Items

a. December meeting minutes were approved

3. Committee Reports

- a. Potomac River Generating Station development: **Mike Bahleda** reported a discussion about Department of Energy (DOE) funding minimums may be too high. There are DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) building technology programs and grants that might be applicable and HILCO expressed interest.
- b. Open Space Steering Committee: **Mike Olex** reported the committee focus for the last meeting was on process and criteria. Group reviewed the old criteria list to and will continue to work on developing a updated criteria list.
- c. Energy and Climate Change Action Plan task force: **Al Clark** reported a good discussion worth watching on vulnerabilities from participation, flooding, and heat. Shared that 65% of housing in Alexandria is multifamily and a second community workshop is planned for March 1, 2022. Link to presentation. **Marta Schantz** invited colleagues to attend the Feb 1, 2022, public ECCAP task force meeting on climate adaptation and heat. Materials from Dec 7th meeting are available here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/ecocity/info/default.aspx?id=118548#Meeting5>
- d. Eisenhower West Landmark Van Dorn implementation ad hoc advisory group: Bill Pugh shared sustainability concerns for Landmark Overlook that already pass Planning Commission that roofs solar ready, limits gas hookups to a few uses, affordable housing across from transit center. And unbundled parking for multifamily.
- e. Earth Day: Ellen Eggerton, Sustainability Coordinator, asked for and got support for Earth Day to be a series of smaller event during the month of April due to COVID, reducing trash, and getting increased participation. **Mike Olex** to join volunteer committee and keep EPC informed. **Edith Cecchini** volunteered to be an Ellen Pickering judge. List of initial events include:
 - i. **April 2:** Dog walk to reduce plastics and to beautify a park (maybe King St Garden Park) (Julie Chapman volunteer organizer).
 - ii. **April 5** (tentative): Proclamation at City Council
 - iii. **April 9:** Alice Ferguson Foundation stream clean ups.
 - iv. **April 23:** Tree planting by City Council members and maybe some additional tree planting options (John Marlin, arborist) and Ellen Pickering Award (Edith Cecchini). Suggestions to add bike rodeo (Eldon Boes), electric assisted bikes (Al Clark w/ Petago), sample electric vehicles (talk to Steve Banashek)
 - v. Date TBD: Solarize Alexandria campaign runs through April. Suggestion to add electrification topic (Brendan Owens provide content) to the outreach events by LEAP (manager solarize in Northern VA) and include HVAC contractors for heat pump upgrade discussion (Mike Olex).
 - vi. Date TBD: Compost bin giveaways at farmers markets (Helen Lee) and suggestion to add induction cooking demo at farmers market with electricity available (Al Clark).

4. EPC BY-LAWS

Members voted unanimously to revise by-laws to include climate change. Motion made by Marta and seconded by many.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS were deferred to the end of the meeting.

6. **Presentation:** Determination of Bay Credits by Jesse Maines, TES Stormwater Management Division Chief. Slides provided on EPC webpage for the meeting.

- a. Shared VCAP grant funding in the chat per NVSWCD and City MOU, <https://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/stormwater/info/default.aspx?id=99622>
- b. State added tree planting for water quality, but the credit is not significant. There are other co-benefits from trees. Ellen Eggerton added in the chat that tree canopy module is being added to the green house gas inventory calculations for next City inventory.

7. **Public comments and discussion.** Many questions on Taylor and Strawberry Run. These included how credits are calculated, nutrient trading, metrics are different for each site, maintenance requirements for stabilization, City able to meet current state targets without Taylor or Strawberry Run projects, annual reports to state, and specific metrics on project web sites.

8. **City Council letter:** Approved letter from three commissions to City Council for minor changes by Planning Commission; vote 12 support, 1 abstain (Al Clark), and none opposed. Transportation Commission already made changes on the version shared (in meeting material on EPC web page).

9. **Next meeting Feb 28** to include next steps for stakeholder groups with IEN. EPC requests a future meeting with Sarah Taylor about 2022 legislative session. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.