



Minutes

EPC MONTHLY MEETING

March 18, 2024

Virtual via Zoom

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members (13)	Status	Staff
Kishla Askins	P	Melissa Atwood, T&ES
Dan Beattie	P	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Eldon Boes	P	Carrie Beach, P&Z
Alexander Clark	A	Andra Schmitt, P&Z
Benjamin Cuddy	E	Natalie Talis, Health Department
Jennifer Debias	P	Tiffany Johnson-Wiggins, Health Department
Kathie Hoekstra, Chair	P	
Anna Marino	P	Guests
Philip Mobilia	P	MaryAnn West
Theresa Romanosky	E	Scott Barstow
Marta Schantz, Vice-Chair	P	Jenny McCuster
Julia Slayden	P	
James Vandeputte	P	

P: Present; **PR:** Present Remotely; **A:** Absent - Unexcused; **E:** Absent – Excused; **N:** Not a Member

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Kathie Hoekstra called the meeting to order and introductions for non-commission attendees were completed.

2. Public Comment

MaryAnn West: In late September/October, returned from a trip and saw about 0.5 – 1.0 acre of clear-cut natural habitat within the 100-ft flood zone of Hunting Creek. Concerned for wildlife in wetlands and wanted to make others aware of concern.

3. Neighborhood Planning Update on Alex West Planning

Alex West Small Area Plan planning process started about 1.5 years ago and is now in phase 4. Phase 4 includes the release of draft recommendations and process update

presentations by P&Z staff to Boards and Commissions and at community meetings. The presentation included information on what actions have previously been taken in this process, understanding the area of Alex West, land use, sustainability, transportation network, park network, tree canopy, and identifying consistency with the Energy & Climate Change Action Plan.

4. Presentation/Discussion with the Alexandria Health Department

Natalie Talis, Population Health Manager with Alexandria Health Department (HD), discussed their healthy homes program and upcoming assessment work. HD's involvement in Healthy homes started with a health assessment and community engagement, which identified the need for a coordinated healthy homes initiative. Discussion included a review of various goals, associated information for each step, and challenges. Upcoming community health assessment is planned during 2024.

5. Finalize Retreat Topics/ Focus Areas

EPC commissioners provided their top three (3) topics/focus areas to Chair Hoekstra, which will be compiled and ranked as next steps in drafting retreat agenda.

6. Administrative Items

a) Meeting Minutes

Vote on February 26, 2024, regular meeting minutes, for approval. **Motion:** Ms. Marta Schantz; **Second:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

b) Approve Metric Chart

Metric chart is intended to suggest to the Office of Climate Action and the City to strive toward collecting these metrics and putting them on a dashboard to show real-time, city specific data.

Vote on metric chart for approval. **Motion:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Second:** Ms. Anna Marino; **Vote:** Eight (8) for, two (2) opposed. Motion passed with majority approval.

c) Reports from Commissioners

Updates from Ryan Freed:

- **Eco-City Festival:** Office of Climate Action is hosting the Eco-City Festival on May 11th. Event will include (1) an EV Ride-and-drive showcase and (2) festival area with information booths, fun carnival-style games, and activities for kids.
- **Green Business Recognition Program:** Cards requested by EPC commissioners at last meeting are available. Recognized newest business in program, Port City Brewing Company.
- **Green Building Policy Advisory Group** had the initial meeting today, March 18th, to get general understanding of team's priorities and what group

members want to see in the Green Building Policy. Climate Action is adjusting agenda/approach based on feedback. Next meeting is April 1st, with focus on Energy Use Intensity (EUIs) and electrification, followed by renewable energy.

- Waterfront Flood Mitigation Open House on March 26th from 7pm – 8:30pm at the Charles Houston Rec Center. Discuss waterfront project, including underground storage, pump station, lower King St design concepts, and environmental analysis.

Updates from Melissa Atwood:

- Earth Month Bingo activity scheduled to go live before spring break. Earth Month calendar and webpage will also be updated by end of week and shared via eNews and social media.
- AlexRenew’s Tunnel Completion Open House on April 13th from 10am – 4pm.

Transportation Commission (Mr. Dan Beattie):

No updates. Next meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

Update from Mr. Dan Beattie:

American Council for Energy Efficient Economy is hosting a webinar on April 1st. Surveyed over 1500 family units on how they might come up with the right construct to be incentivized to build more energy efficient buildings/homes.

Updates from Chair Hoekstra:

- Letter regarding possible data center: Fairfax County wants to develop a data center right outside the City limits. Planning Commission asked if EPC is interested in writing a letter to City Council or City Manager suggesting they reach out to Fairfax County and address request for low energy development of data center, or no data center based on energy use and noise. Commission decided they need more information before determining if this seems in line with EPC interests. No previous history known in writing a letter regarding a project outside the city. To do this, EPC is required to get approval from City Council prior to writing a letter regarding development outside City limits. Commission decided to table idea for now but could reconsider if more information is obtained.
- Retreat: Commission decided to get lunch from Perfect Pita versus Panera this year. Melissa will send options out for consideration.

Waterfront Commission (Mr. Eldon Boes):

Robinson Terminal North development is in the planning phase. Consider having them come talk to the EPC.

Stormwater Commission (Ms. Jennifer Debias):

No updates at this time.

Ellen Pickering Award (Ms. Jennifer Debias):

Nominations close Friday, March 22nd.

Update from Ms. Marta Schantz:

- Arena letter is on pause until it is determined whether approved and funded.
- United Workers: Met with their head of Policy and Advocacy and looped in Office of Climate Action to consider the most effective way to engage the community/neighborhood to see how to address and improve environmental justice in the area.
- Eco-City Homes program: Team has met twice to create a draft of what program could look like. Discussed what the city is hoping to get out of this program, how we could make an impact across the city, and vision of what EPC would want it to look like. Consider adding discussion to possible retreat topics.

d) EPC tabling at ALX Dog Walk and Eco-City Festival

Consider what activity/information EPC wants to provide at tabling events.

7. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Marta Schantz; **Second:** Ms. Jennifer Dubias

The meeting adjourned at 9:41p.m. Next regular meeting is Monday, April 15, 2024.

FY2024 Attendance

Member	Sept 18, 2023	Oct 16, 2023	Nov 11, 2023	Dec 11, 2023	Jan 22, 2024 <small>(virtual only)</small>	Feb 26, 2024 <small>(virtual only)</small>	Mar 18, 2024	Apr 15, 2024	Apr 27, 2024 <small>(Retreat)</small>	May 20, 2024	Jun 17, 2024	TOTALS
Kishla Askins						P	P					100%
Dan Beattie	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					100%
Alexander Clark	P	P	P	P	E	P	A					86%
Benjamin Cuddy	P	P	P	E	P	P	E					100%
Jennifer Debias	P	E	P	P	P	P	P					100%
Cynthia Elliott	P											100%
Oleksandr Faryga	A	E										50%
Kathie Hoekstra	E	P	P	P	P	P	P					100%
Anna Marino	P	P	P	A	P	P	P					86%
Philip Mobilia		P	P	P	P	P	P					100%
Michael Olex	P	E	P	P	P							100%
Theresa Romanosky	P	P	E	P	P	P	E					100%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	E	P	P	P					100%
Julia Slayden					P	P	P					100%
James Vandeputte	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					100%