

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
September 14, 2009 Work Session

EPC Members in Attendance

✓	Danielle Fidler (Chair)	✓	Keith Freihofer	✓	Kurt Moser
✓	Scott Barstow	✓	Pat Hagan	✓	Peter Pennington
E	David Boxer	✓	Jennifer Hovis	✓	Phil Voorhees
✓	Jessica Brown	E	Laura Medhurst		

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent E=Excused Absence]

City Staff

Bill Skrabak, Khoa Tran

Begin 7:35 PM

Public Comment

None

Art Commission Presentation

- Mike DeTomo from the Public Art Committee/Commission on the Arts gave an overview of the committee's new ideas to incorporate public art into the waterfront planning process
- The primary concept is an 'Art Walk' that connects the waterfront, unifying areas that are currently disjointed
- The idea would be to draw upon Alexandria history, use some infrastructure currently in place (e.g., railroad tracks, manhole covers), and allow interaction with the river
- Some ideas included new performance areas, adding a windmill back into Windmill Hill Park (potentially to generate power, as well), create a network of green roofs for an appealing aerial view, installation of dynamic lighting and more artistic fencing for areas that still will not allow for public access
- EPC members raised questions on whether to incorporate Jones Point Park. However, the park is already covered under an existing plan that will be implemented upon completion of the Wilson Bridge.

Liaison and Representative Updates

- Peter submitted a comprehensive report of meetings and activities in which he participated over the summer
- Keith mentioned that the Transportation Commission prioritized projects for the City's CMAQ grant application. He will follow up with a more detailed email summary.
- Bill noted that the City hopes to use federal stimulus funds to tackle the Phase II Green Building effort, which will focus on retrofits.
- Peter and Scott met with Bernie Caton to discuss legislative priorities. Scott has done some research on bills that failed last year as a first cut of our priorities; he will share the list with EPC via email.
- Bill distributed OEQ priorities for FY10-12 and details on some recent grant applications for stormwater management projects (bioretention areas and green roofs) and the energy efficiency/conservation block grant
- Bill noted that budget constraints were a primary concern at the first Council session of the year; the situation is similar to last year and it will be difficult to tackle projects that are not already in the pipeline.
- Bill stated that Mirant won a challenge on the VA CAIR rule; the State air board will be appealing to the Supreme Court. Mirant has been operating much less over the summer

due to a combination of lower temperatures and the cheaper price of natural gas. The next MCMG meeting is scheduled for 9/29.

- Peter asked for a summary of the situation at the Fannon property on Duke Street. A whistleblower raised concerns about past contamination and stormwater management practices. City staff confirmed that the permit allowed an inappropriate stormwater connection, which was resolved now that tanks have been removed and the site is undergoing redevelopment.

Green Food Resolution and Event

- Scott and Danielle have been involved in a group of citizens that is working with Rob Krupicka on several green food issues. A screening of the film "Fresh" is scheduled for Oct. 20 at the Masonic Temple, along with several speakers involved in the movement.
- The group has asked for EPC to pass a resolution that asked Council to support locally grown food, farmers markets, community gardens, etc. The resolution has been drafted, however there are concerns regarding the timing to pass the resolution in time for the Council session that precedes the film screening. Composing language potentially still needs to be incorporated.
- Bill questioned whether the appropriate City departments – primarily Health and Parks – have been involved; it was unclear.
- Scott and Danielle will be attending the next meeting tomorrow and will raise the issues that EPC discussed.

Retreat

- The retreat is scheduled for this Saturday, September 19 at the Ford Nature Center, 9AM-1PM.
- Each of the new subgroups should give an update (benchmarking, funding, business, outreach). Two additional projects/groups exist for trees and the websites/blog.
- The retreat will be used to develop a schedule for key milestones this year, discuss priorities and approve the outreach plan.
- Danielle will resend the priorities developed at the time the final EAP was sent to Council; Khoa will send a final agenda for the retreat.

FY2009 Annual Report

- Jen sent a draft of the annual report last week. All the gaps are filled, however a determination needs to be made on what level of detail to include on metrics/report card. Khoa will send examples of metrics used in previous annual reports (e.g., recycling rate).
- Bill mentioned that Council may request that commissions submit annual reports to Rose Boyd Williams, who will compile the key points for Council, in order to shorten Council dockets. If EPC approves the annual report at the 9/21 meeting, it could still go to Council on its own.

Adjourn 9:40 PM