



## Minutes

### EPC MONTHLY MEETING

December 15, 2025

City Hall, Council Workroom

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

#### Attendance

EPC Members (12)	Status	Staff
Dan Beattie, Vice-Chair	P	Melissa Atwood, TES
Eldon Boes	P	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Jennifer Debias	P	Jesse Maines, T&ES
Charlie Garlow	P	Jessica Lassetter, T&ES
Kathie Hoekstra	PR	Dan Medina, T&ES
David Hole	P	Alex Haptemariam, T&ES
Perrin Krisko	P	
Philip Mobilia, Secretary	P	<b>Guests</b>
Marta Schantz, Chair	P	Megha Munipalla, Student at ACHS
Rick Schneider	E	Robert Margolis, Member of Public
Julia Slayden	P	
Yanique Revers	P	

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

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Marta Schantz called the meeting to order and provided an overview of topics to be covered. Introductions were completed for all attendees.

Commissioner Kathie Hoekstra attended pursuant to the electronic participation policy from Alexandria, VA for personal reasons.

#### 2. Public Comment

Megha Munipalla, provided update on youth initiatives led by Emma Bidwell and herself. Updates included completion of the first cleanup, held at Jones Point where ten volunteers participated. Another cleanup is being planned for the spring. Both students also attended a meeting on environmental legislature for the General Assembly, spoke with Ms. Wendy Ginsberg, and are planning to attend lobby day for Va League of Conservation Voters with Commissioner Kathie Hoekstra.

### **3. Flood Resilience Plan Update (Stormwater Management)**

Jessica Lassetter, Senior Environmental Specialist with T&ES Stormwater Management, provided a presentation on the Flood Action Alexandria program and the Flood Resilience Plan.

Ms. Lassetter highlighted the progress achieved by the Flood Action Alexandria program which was launched in 2021. She discussed opportunities for community members to engage in flood mitigation for their personal property such as the flood mitigation grant program and the stormwater utility credit fee. She mentioned that property owners in the City are eligible for federal flood insurance, even if you are outside of the federally designated flood plain.

Ms. Lassetter shared that the City is currently developing its inaugural Flood Resilience Plan (FRP), which will serve as a roadmap for mitigating flooding risks. The Plan provides a comprehensive assessment of the City's current and future vulnerability to three types of flooding: tidal, inland, and riverine. As part of this effort, new flood models were developed to evaluate risk and identify areas requiring further study. Critical and sensitive assets, as well as vulnerable communities, were overlaid with the model results to help refine priority areas for flood mitigation.

The City is now developing flood mitigation solutions and addressing key elements of the Plan, including equity considerations; flood preparedness and response; policies and regulations; communications and outreach; and funding strategies to help the City adapt to future severe storms and sea-level rise. A second community outreach event is planned for late winter, and the draft Flood Resilience Plan will be shared broadly for public feedback before being presented to City Council for approval in June 2026.

Ms. Lassetter's presentation also covered project funding, the specific goals of the FRP, the project timeline, screening-level flood modeling results for interior, riverine, and coastal flooding, and the vulnerability assessment. Extensive community outreach efforts to date have included community meetings, summer pop-up events, and an online survey.

EPC asked questions regarding:

- How the analysis will impact the plan, and what is the anticipate content/outline of the plan
- How T&ES is differentiating between problems of Today vs problems of Tomorrow
- Why the analysis only goes out 50 years, when City infrastructure lasts much longer
- How collaborations with Emergency Management (e.g. generators) are part of the plan
- How green infrastructure will be part of recommendations
- How do we improve Alexandria's Community Rating System (CRS)
- What percent of households in Alexandria have flood insurance

EPC plans to review the Draft Plan upon its release and provide a response to the City, particularly the Executive Summary and Technical memos. The Commission will collaborate with the Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee on its response.

#### 4. Administrative Items

##### a) Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 17, 2025

Vote on November 17, 2025, regular meeting minutes, for approval. **Motion:** Ms. Jen Debias; **Second:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

##### b) Staff Updates

Update on Office of Climate Action Budget (Ryan Freed): Current FY26 budget, which covers July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, provided a \$600,000 allocation for Office of Climate Action (OCA), where \$200,000 of it was put in contingent reserve and leaving \$400,000 available to spend, plus the \$134,000 carried forward from FY25. So far in FY26, OCA spent about \$460,500, leaving OCA's current available budget around \$73,500. OCA will go to City Council in January to provide information on remaining plans for the year and request the rest of the money to be released from contingent reserve. OCA has a couple big projects prioritized for the remainder of FY26, including a feasibility study for Community Choice Aggregation, a multifamily program with affordable housing investments for energy efficiency projects, and developing a heat mitigation plan. Money is also allocated to engage in utility proceedings. Five utility proceedings, where the City will engage, are coming in the near future.

Additional OCA updates include:

- Staff are making progress on solar power purchase agreements for the city, where staff is looking at all city buildings, parking garages and parking lots. By putting solar on city facilities, staff thinks the city could get about 25% of the City's energy through on-site solar.
- In January, there will be right-of-way charging for electric vehicles. Staff will be looking at curbside chargers to deploy around the city and hoping to re-engage in the public charging franchise.

Melissa Atwood, EPC Liaison Updates: Reminder this is the last meeting in City Hall. The next three meetings (January, February, and March) will be at AlexRenew, 1800 Limerick Dr. Following that, we will likely be at Business Center Drive. Additionally, the open EPC position, Ben Cuddy's old position, is posted and applications need to be received by January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

##### c) Reports from Commissioners

Update from Stormwater Management staff: the Stormwater Advisory Committee will meet on the third Wednesday of every other month, beginning in January 2026.

Update from Chair Marta Schantz:

- Kudos to Commissioner Hoekstra for seeing the city published their draft legislative priorities that didn't seem to include EPC suggestions. Chair Schantz talked to Ms. Wendy Ginsberg and Councilmembers Sarah Bagley and Kirk

McPike and Mayor Alyia Gaskins regarding this concern. They worked with staff to include two additional bullets in the legislative package, which was voted on last Saturday:

- One new bullet in the Affordable Housing section that states: “Reducing heating-related costs for low-income families through efficiency improvements to ensure residents have access to heat and warm water, which are vital to well-being.”
- One new bullet in the Transit, Infrastructure, Resilience, and Clean Energy Section that states: “Improving the ability of localities to advance clean energy goals through stronger and expedited state building code adoption and streamlining the process for localities to adopt Municipal Aggregation.”
- Alexandria Beautification Commission reached out regarding connected parks, versus park islands, like a Pollinator Pathway. ABC initiated conversations with city staff and may ask later to write a supporting letter.
- EPC commissioners were interested in having VA American Water and AlexRenew join a meeting to discuss PFAS. Possibly include guest speaker from Potomac Riverkeepers and other organizations.

Update from Ms. Kathie Hoekstra:

- Elizabeth Bennett-Parker has agreed to carry the Sierra Club bill that would require the building code to be amended to the current International Energy Conservation Code. This includes energy efficiency for the 2024 code for residential and commercial.
- Participated in the 30% design for the Taylor Run stream restoration. Provided a brief description of the current restoration designs that focus on updates near both ends of Taylor Run.
- Elected to be the chair of the VA League of Conservation Voters Education Fund for the next four (4) years.
- Commissioners interested in participating in the weekly zoom meetings with the VA League of Conservation Voters on Fridays at 12pm should let Commissioner Hoekstra know.

Transportation Commission (Vice-Chair Dan Beattie): No update. Next meeting is Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

Waterfront Commission (Mr. Eldon Boes): No update. Next meeting is tomorrow morning, Tuesday, December 16, 2025.

Plans for Braddock Road (Ms. Perrin Krisko): Traffic & Parking Board will be discussing the plans for Braddock Road. There is discussion about whether there should be bike lanes or use the area for parking. Currently, there is on-street parking. Braddock Road plans are open for comment and will be on the Board's docket for January. EPC considered whether to write a letter of support for bike

lanes. Commissioners looked at maps to identify parking available in the neighborhood for residents if these spots were no longer available.

**Motion** to write a letter in support of bike lanes on Braddock Road for this specific stretch: Ms. Hoekstra; **Second**: Mr. Boes; **Vote**: 6 votes FOR, 5 votes AGAINST. No commissioners abstained. Passes by majority vote. Ms. Krisko will draft the letter for review by Chair Schantz.

Public Health Advisory Commission, PHAC (Ms. Krisko): No updates. Next meeting is Thursday, December 18, 2025.

Park & Recreation Commission (Mr. David Hole): No updates. Mr. David Hole hopes to attend the January meeting.

Youth Engagement (Ms. Perrin Krisko & Mr. Boes):

- Change code request was submitted to City Council to add a non-quorum, non-voting youth seat to the EPC.
- Submitted an article to the Zebra regarding the bike buses. ALX Times also expressed interest in covering it.
- Taking a break from bike buses and will start again in March.
- Emma is part of Watershed Warriors club at the high school, which provides educational programs to elementary schools. Emma would like to launch educational programs in the middle schools, as an extension of the Watershed Warriors.
- Possibly have Emma and Megha lead events for Earth Day.

Flood Resilience Plan (Secretary Mobilia & Ms. Slayden): No further update. Presentation provided by Stormwater Management at today's meeting.

Housing Master Plan (Ms. Yanique Revers and Ms. Hoekstra):

After meeting with Mr. Christopher Do, Housing Analyst, on November 18th, Ms. Revers and Ms. Hoekstra are scheduling a follow-up meeting in January to talk about the Goal 10 revision, discuss strategies that are currently being developed by Ryan Freed, and discuss EPC's continued synergy with the Housing 2040 plan as it pertains to sustainability priorities.

EPC is considering having Office of Housing join the January or February meeting to give a Master Plan update. Ms. Revers will request their attendance.

Ellen Pickering Award (Ms. Yanique Revers): Met with Melissa Atwood to discuss award to strategize different ways to bolster more applicants and great communication to get more buy-in from the community.

Community Choice Aggregation (Mr. Charlie Garlow & Ms. Krisko): ALX Now article was published.

#### Council Public Hearing EPC Remarks

Commissioner Eldon Boes attended the City Council Public Hearing and provided remarks on support of all OCA plans, programs and budget; encouraging Alexandria to consider the CCA; and highlighting the bike buses.

For January 24<sup>th</sup> public hearing, Ms. Krisko will attend with Ms. Debias as backup.

For February 21<sup>st</sup> public hearing, Ms. Dan Beattie will attend with Ms. Debias as backup.

#### **5. Adjourn**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Phil Mobilia

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38p.m.

### **FY2026 Attendance**

Member	Sept 15, 2025	Oct 20, 2025	Nov 17, 2025	Dec 15, 2025	Jan 26, 2026	Feb 23, 2026	Mar 16, 2026	Apr 20, 2026	TBD (Retreat)	May 18, 2026	Jun 15, 2026	TOTALS
Dan Beattie	PR	P	P	P								100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	P								100%
Benjamin Cuddy	E	E	N	N								100%
Jennifer Debias	P	P	P	P								100%
Charlie Garlow	P	P	P	P								100%
Kathie Hoekstra	P	P	P	PR								100%
David Hole	P	P	P	P								100%
Perrin Krisko	P	P	P	P								100%
Philip Mobilia	P	P	P	P								100%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	P								100%
Rick Schneider	N	N	P	E								100%
Julia Slayden	P	P	P	P								100%
Yanique Revers	P	P	P	P								100%