

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes  
November 16, 2009 Meeting

**EPC Members in Attendance**

✓	Danielle Fidler	✓	Keith Freihofer	✓	Laura Medhurst
✓	Scott Barstow (Chair)	X	Patrick Hagan	✓	Kurt Moser
✓	David Boxer	✓	Patricia Hilgard	✓	Peter Pennington
✓	Jessica Bayliss Brown	✓	Jennifer Hovis	X	Phil Voorhees

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

**City Staff**

Bill Skrabak, Khoa Tran

**Begin 7:35 PM**

**Public Comment**

None

**Committee and Staff Updates**

- Peter sent a summary via email of meetings and events he recently attended
- David attended the Transportation meeting for the Strategic Planning exercise, and reported that there was good support for transit initiatives
- Scott and Peter attended the first Health & Environment Strategic Planning meeting, where more attention was paid to health issues. The public open house is 12/1.
- Bill reported that Council approved staff recommendations on the 5 fugitive dust measures at Mirant.
- Keith reported that the Transportation Commission is looking at options to address traffic in the BRAC development off of 395/Seminary Road. There are several options, some of which involve taking land from the Winkler Preserve. Laura will represent EPC at the 11/21 public hearing and make a statement that we do not support taking land away from the preserve. There will be additional public meetings in December.
- Patricia attended a meeting with the new community garden group, which was focused on low income housing areas. She also reported on a climate change advocacy workgroup she attended, which was partially sponsored by ACE.

**Staff Presentation on Stormwater Utility Fees**

- Bill provided an overview of the current plans for development of the stormwater utility fee. Staff recommend a user fee based on the size of impervious area, as opposed to relying on the current general fund that is based on property value.
- The utility fee would rely about the development of a standard unit, based on an analysis of lot size and impervious area across the city. Attached and semi-detached units would pay the equivalent of 43% of one unit.
- Staff are still considering future options to give credit for BMPs such as rain barrels, rain gardens and retention ponds; greens roofs would likely be treated differently because the roof area simply would not be included in the calculation of impervious area.
- Current estimates assume \$48 fee per standard unit per year, which amounts to \$2.6 million in annual revenue from the fee.
- The current schedule allows for recommendations to Council in February 2010, and a final decision in May 2010.

**Administrative Items**

- October 19 minutes were approved with minor edits.

- EPC members were reminded of the gathering with Arlington's E2C2 committee on Sunday, 11/22 at Evening Star.
- Peter reported that Joy will assist EPC and ASA with managing the Pickering award this year.

### **EPC Blog**

- Scott provided a layout of potential changes to improve the blog. David will assess the ability to tweak the current structure. Concerns were raised about the current calendar function.
- It was suggested that each EPC member may be assigned to the blog for one month over the course of the year, to ensure a variety of content is published.
- It was agreed that the blog should prominently display links to the Charter and EAP.

### **Outreach**

- Jessica has drafted an initial outline for the standard Eco City presentation to be delivered to various community groups.

### **Other business**

- Scott reported that the indicators subgroup is working on a list of draft indicators and will have something to share in advance of the next meeting.
- Bill reported that there will be a seminar in early December to educate citizens on energy audits.
- The next adopt-a-block cleanup will occur at 9AM on Sunday, 12.6.

### **Adjourn 9:30 PM**