

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
January 11, 2010 Work Session

EPC Members in Attendance

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

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

City Staff

Khoa Tran, Bob Custard

Elected Officials

City Councilmember Alicia Hughes

Begin 7:40 PM

Public Comment

None

Northern Virginia Streetcar Coalition presentation (Agnes Artemel)

- Agnes Artemel provided the EPC with an overview of the Streetcar Coalition's efforts, which grew out of the work with her organization ADAM (Alexandrians Delivering smart growth Around Metro stations) and a partnership with former Councilman Tim Lovain.
- The group is working with Arlington and Fairfax counties on a potential streetcar network. Arlington is committed to the Columbia Pike line, and along Route 1 to Four Mile Run.
- Northern Virginia Community College (NoVA) is interested in a streetcar line that will pass by campus and offer opportunities to develop a maintenance facility for educational purposes.
- Priorities for 2010 include: the first membership meeting on January 28th where an interim board will be elected, coordination with local jurisdictions, extensive outreach, and efforts to obtain federal funding.
- It was noted that streetcars have been shown to improve development prospects more than bus routes, because the installation of physical infrastructure gives developers more confidence.
- The coalition requests EPC's support, and invites EPC members to participate in the effort. The coalition can be contacted at novastreetcar@aol.com.

Sustainable Cities Program presentation (Engin Artemel and Greg Roberts)

- Engin Artemel (Artemel and Associates) and Greg Roberts (Sustain Our Planet) provided an overview of the new Sustainable Cities Program the two parties have recently developed.
- SoP began in 2007 as a carbon offsetting company, and now provides consulting services to companies and governments on how to become more sustainable.
- The new partnership has proposed that the Sustainable Cities Program could be applied to major developments in Alexandria, such as Beauregard and Potomac Yard. Artemel and Roberts proposed a pilot project to develop key sustainability measures and a rating system that would allow the City to compare different proposed development plans (in order to select the most sustainable option). Beauregard was proposed as a good pilot due to the possible existence of grant money from the federal Department of Defense.

Energy usage and VMT were suggested as key measures. Overall, the effort would be similar to LEED ND (neighborhood design) and could be adopted across the city.

- Artemel and Roberts met with the Mayor and City Manager last week and reportedly received support for the project.

Proposed Green Food Resolution

- The draft resolution is on the agenda for the next Environmental Steering Committee meeting (February 1). The language is undergoing final editing and will be ready for EPC endorsement soon. And final comments should be sent to Scott ASAP.

Committee and Staff Updates

- Patricia reported recent attendance at two events: a meeting of the anti-smoking group she is involved with, and a "Pre-Legislative Panel" with local delegates in Arlington. The focus was transportation, environment and budget.
- Khoa reported that the Strategic Plan effort is moving forward and a draft may be ready for EPC review shortly.
- Peter attended a transportation management meeting in December. Transportation Management Plans (TMPs) are required for new developments in the city in order to help change resident behavior regarding mass transit. He reported some frustration with progress. The City is looking to make some changes to gain efficiencies.
- Peter also reported that a 30-story building has been approved for Eisenhower plots 10 and 11, which will have limited opportunities for open space due to proximity to Metro.

EAP 2030 Implementation Strategy

- Khoa shared the draft list of potential indicators with the ECG and has not yet received any comments. He will remind staff and request comments prior to the next meeting in mid-February. In particular, we are looking for input on which measures are not practical to implement due to lack of data or the need for significant resources.
- EPC members should review and send comments to Scott, Pat, Kurt and Jessica prior to the next meeting.

Other Business

- The vacancy for a new business member was announced but there were no applicants. The space will stay open, and there will be outreach to the Chamber and others.
- Planning and Zoning will discuss the Potomac Yard plan at the next meeting. John Noelle will also discuss tree steward efforts.
- No action is currently needed on BRAC/Winkler Preserve. The City made recommendations to VDOT to protect Winkler.
- EPC decided to weigh in on potential cuts to Metro train and bus service. Peter will draft a letter to Mayor and Council for Scott's signature.

Adjourn 9:30 PM