

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes

January 27, 2014

City Hall, Room 1101

EPC Members in Attendance

✓	Scott Barstow	✓	Jim Kapsis	✓	Steve Walz
✓	Sam Gaugush	✓	Kathryn Mika	X	Ryan Wojtanowski
✓	Susan Gitlin	X	Kurt Moser		
✓	Geoffrey Goode	X	Ryan Sloan		
✓	Patrick Holman	✓	Monica Starnes		

City Staff

Bill Skrabak, Khoa Tran, Bill Eger

Begin 7:30 PM

Welcome and Introductions

- Susan Gitlin was introduced as the newest citizen member of the EPC

Public Comments

- None

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Minutes for October 21, 2013 and December 16, 2013 were approved

EPC Representative on Eisenhower West SAP Steering Committee

- City staff reported that Ryan Sloan, who previously has expressed interest in filling this position, will not be able to do so. Furthermore, city staff reported that Ryan is resigning his position on the EPC effective immediately.
- Kathryn Mika volunteered to serve as the EPC representative on the steering committee. A representative of the city's parking and zoning commission provided high level background on the steering committee and process. They are looking at about a 15 month process that will include a transportation study. Meetings will be monthly to start.

King Street Bike Lanes

- Scott Barstow represented the EPC at the City Council meeting on January 25, 2014 and provided a brief update as to the proceedings. The decision to implement the King Street Bike Lanes was appealed to city council by members of the community, which re-engaged the Parking and Traffic Commission.
- On February 24, 2014, the Parking and Traffic Commission will meet to consider the matter; the City Council will take up the matter on March 15, 2014.

- The EPC determined that it would send another letter of support for the King Street Bike Lanes proposal, reworked to reflect the most recent developments. Scott Barstow and Monica Starnes volunteered to work on this letter. Further, it was determined that the February 24, 2014, EPC meeting would be truncated to allow attendance at the Parking and Traffic Commission meeting in city hall.

City's Revised Environmental Management Ordinance

- City Staff (Bill Eger) gave an overview of recent events tied to the city's revised environmental management ordinance, scheduled to go before the city Planning Commission on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, with the ordinance going to city council in February.
- City staff encouraged EPC to take a position on the changes (for both the planning commission and the city council meeting). EPC members expressed unanimous support for the letter; Scott Barstow and Kathryn Mica volunteered to work on these letters.
- Generally speaking, the changes would keep the city's water quality volume default, providing flexibility in how developers/redevelopers may comply with the ordinance (e.g., BMPs versus fee in lieu of mitigation features). This flexibility helps the city in its enforcement role.
 - Proposed fee would be passed on \$2/sqft of impervious area, which would be allocated to a water quality fund used to develop BMPs and riparian enhancements.
 - The general emphasis is to balance citizen versus city contributions, to create a stringent, yet flexible framework.

Earth Day Update

- The Earth Day organizing committee will be sponsoring a logo contest (looking to launch something in March 2014). They had a favorable reaction to the calendar idea, proposing an April 2014 to April 2015 time span.
- The committee recommended reaching out the Alexandria Arts Commission or the artist community within Del Rey. There was some discussion of submission process (Twitter/Instagram), but security and legal concerns continue to be raised.
- The Parks and Recreation Office now owns the Earth Day website and will be responsible for updating, as appropriate.
- DASH has announced that it will be providing free rides to Earth Day. There was discussion on how DASH plans to confirm riders intent to attend the celebration.

Staff and Commission Updates

- With the departure of Ryan Sloan from the EPC, there is a need for an EPC representative on the Fort Ward Advisory Committee. Susan Gitlin volunteered to take on this role. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 29, 2014.
- Steve Walz and others on EPC discussed the EPC's approach to the Georgetown Energy Contest. Generally, it was recognized that while the EPC did not have the resources to dedicate to the process, such that would support a letter of intent, highlighting the lack of available city resources to support the process might help EPC's on-going argument for a city sustainability coordinator. Jim Kapsis, Steve Walz and Sam Gaugush volunteered to work on this letter.
- Steve Walz announced that the Episcopal Seminary has taken a sustainability pledge which has seen wide spread support (including by the EPA). There was general interest in inviting officials to present their plans to the EPC, and coordinating a mayoral letter of congratulations.

- A recent presentation on the potential for a Potomac River Passenger Ferry was also discussed. This would most likely be geared toward commuters, which raises significant parking questions within Old Town. This was noted as something to keep an eye on.
- The Four Mile Run Advisory Committee is going to start restoration process, focused on wetland and natural shore work.
- The Pickering Award press announcement will be released on January 27, 2014. Geoff Goode has served as the sole EPC representative on this committee; Susan Gitlin also volunteered to serve on the selection committee.
- City Staff (Bill Skrabak) announced that the city had been asked to participated in the Earth Day “Turn Off All the Lights” event. The city politely decline, citing their commitment to city-sponsored Earth Day events.

Adjourn 9:10 PM