

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
February 7, 2011 Work Session

EPC Members in Attendance

✓	Jennifer Hovis (Chair)	✓	Danielle Fidler	✓	Kurt Moser
✓	Jessica Bayliss Brown	✓	Geoffrey Goode	✓	Peter Pennington
✓	Patrick Brennan	✓	Patrick Hagan	✓	Phil Voorhees
✓	Bobby Croghan	✓	Scott Barstow	X	Rebecca Jablon
		✓	Laura Medhurst		

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent]

City Staff

Bill Skrabak, Khoa Tran, Bob Custard

Other Attendees

Joy Wilson (Animal Control Officer), Mellenie Runion (citizen presenter)

Begin 7:35 PM

Public Comment

- None

Urban Chickens

- A citizen, Mellenie Runion, spoke to EPC about a citizen-led effort to revise the City ordinance that allows chickens to be kept in residential areas. The proposed change would allow a residence to have up to three chickens and would reduce the space requirements. Several neighborhoods have informally voiced support for the change. Several homes currently have chickens and few, if any, complaints have been expressed to City staff. Ms. Runion is seeking input and support from the EPC.
- EPC members asked questions regarding impacts to property values, vector control, and education so that people care for the animals properly.
- Ms. Wilson from Animal Control has prior experience in Loudon County and has shared some proposed language to use in the revised ordinance. Her experience in other jurisdictions has been positive.
- Bill raised the issue of adding an additional source to already impaired waters, when the City is already not able to meet the TMDL for fecal coliform.
- EPC members were generally supportive of the concept, but asked Ms. Runion to come back with a formal proposal, such as specific ordinance language, that has been reviewed by some members of City Council.

Ellen Pickering Award

- Patrick B. has a meeting with the ASA rep this week to begin planning this year's award. The award needs to be coordinated with the Pickering family, and outreach needs to begin immediately. EPC and ASA will continue to brainstorm ideas beyond tree planting to honor the recipient.

2011 Earth Day

- Peter reminded EPC that Earth Day will take place on April 30, and all EPC members are expected to volunteer the day. The event will include a fashion show for school kids with all outfits made from recycled goods.

Fort Ward Advisory Committee

- Phil reported out on the final findings and recommendations of the group, which has now disbanded. The group recommended the development of a park management plan to address the various park uses, as well as several recommendations specific to the identification and protection of unmarked grave sites.
- Phil will draft a letter for EPC to send in support of improved park management, urban forestry, and funding.

Energy and Climate Change Action Plan

- The first Green Building Workshop occurred last week. It was very successful, but a larger audience would be preferred.
- City staff are gathering comments on the Action Plan from Planning & Zoning, Energy Manager, Health Dept., etc. It will be presented next week to additional managers.
- The 3/26 Open House will take place at Polk Elementary School, which is the latest school to adopt innovative energy improvements.
- Jen will take the lead on reviewing Council schedules and reach out to Rob and Del regarding the educational event, to occur on a weeknight 1-2 weeks before the Open House.
- Outreach for both events will be extremely important, and all EPC members should be prepared to participate.

Other topics

- Danielle and Peter agreed to draft a letter from EPC to Mayor and Council to request that sustainability/green building be a key area of experience for the next City Manager.
- There is a public hearing on the expansion of the Four Mile Run park on 2/17; Jen will represent EPC and make a statement about support of open space, use of the building for environmental education, and the use of low impact landscaping.
- There will be 2 sessions seeking input on livable communities for the aging population. Peter will represent EPC at one of the sessions to highlight consistency with Eco-City and the EAP.
- The Four Mile Run restoration open house was rescheduled to 2/28 (conflicts with EPC).
- Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria is seeking input on Quality of Life Indicators. Jen and Jess will attend one session to provide input and highlight areas that overlap with Eco-City indicators.

Adjourn 9:30PM