

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
February 22, 2010 Meeting

EPC Members in Attendance

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

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

City Staff

Khoa Tran, Bill Skrabak, Claudia Hamblin-Katnik

Nate Macek, Waterfront Committee

Begin 7:40 PM

Public Comment

None

Administrative Items

- January 25 minutes approved as written.
- Phil Voorhees was appointed to be the new EPC representative on the Transportation Commission. This will create a vacancy on the Fort Ward advisory group that EPC will have to fill.

Earth Day

- Peter reminded EPC that all are expected to help at the event on April 24 at Ben Brenman Park.
- EPC brainstormed ideas for an exhibit/activity, including variations on the shopping game developed last year. Kurt also had a suggestion regarding having kids guess which items take the longest to degrade in a landfill. Laura volunteered to be in charge of organizing the EPC activity. The exhibit should also include the EAP in some way – consider laptops to take the sustainability audit.

Green Food Resolution

- The final draft of the resolution now suggests that EPC and Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria “endorse” the resolution, instead of “sponsor”
- Patricia reiterated concerns that the resolution does not address collection of unused food to avoid waste; other EPC members felt this was a potential health concern that would have to be discussed with Bob Custard.
- Rob Krupicka will be taking the resolution to Council in May; EPC endorse the resolution with a unanimous vote.

Eco-Friendly Restaurant Expo

- Bob Custard will be scheduling the event for a Wednesday afternoon in March; the event is intended to allow restaurants share their efforts and lessons learned on going green. Bob requested Laura’s assistance from EPC as a continuation of previous coordination on environmental health issues.

City Presentation on Endocrine Disrupters in Alexandria Drinking Water

- Claudia Hamblin-Katnik gave a presentation on the latest data from Fairfax County Water Authority on EDs in source water and finished water. Testing for 19 compounds is ongoing, only 6 were detected in source water and none in finished drinking water. Compounds are treated by granular activated carbon and ozone.
- The current data and studies do not account for accumulation in fish and other organisms in surface water; this is an area of continued concern for EPC.
- The public is generally advised to put pills in the trash (safely sealed) and not down the drain.

Committee and Staff Updates

- Bill reported that the City's Strategic Plan process is behind schedule as a result of the snow storms.
- Bill reported on a few key items from the FY11 proposed budget: property tax increase of \$.07 per \$100 assessed value, soft hiring freeze with 67 positions eliminated (significant number of them already vacant), stormwater utility fee is included. There will be public hearings on March 10 and April 17, as well as a Council work session on March 3 regarding environment and health aspects of the budget.
- Scott will draft a letter from EPC with key recommendations on the budget.
- With respect to BRAC-133, Rep. Moran has stated that he will not approve any Federal funds for road projects that impact the Winkler Preserve. Bill shared the weblink to the City page on BRAC issues, including videos of public hearings. EPC discussed stormwater impacts at Winkler from construction, independent of any final decision on the roads. Discussion will continue; EPC members with particular interest in the issue should attend the meetings and public events to report back to the rest of the group.
- Kurt attended the most recent Arlandria redevelopment meeting, which discussed reuse of the former Duron building. The meeting was well attended by Del Ray business community, but not local residents. The original suggestion was to utilize the Duron building for an environmental education center with displays for BMPs; Bill will followup on whether this is still a possible option.
- Peter noted that the City website for EPC is many months out of date, primarily with respect to membership and meeting minutes/schedule.
- Bill shared a copy of City comments submitted to EPA on the proposed SO₂ standards and reported that Virginia Paving received it's new operating permit.
- Each EPC member received a copy of ASA's 2009 annual report.

EAP 2030

- The City received some feedback from the ECG on the draft indicators but the February meeting was delayed due to the snow storms. The indicators will be discussed during the March meeting instead.
- Danielle continues to research other providers for the blog, including Blogger. Jessica will take responsibility for the next posting period.
- Jessica is gathering exiting presentations on Eco-City and developing a standardized presentation for future community events.
- Kurt reported that he has signed up to join the Arlington/Alexandria Tree Stewards, and he will report back on the experience.

Adjourn 10:30 PM