

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes  
February 28, 2011 Committee Meeting

**EPC Members in Attendance**

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

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent]

**City Staff**

Bill Skrabak, Khoa Tran

**Begin 7:35 PM**

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Jennifer welcomed Katy Connady and Ron Sappenfield, private citizens attending the meeting.

**Public Comment**

- None

**FEMA's Revised Floodplain Maps and the City's Revised Floodplain Ordinance, Emily Baker, Deputy Director, T&ES**

- The City participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- FEMA has updated the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and published a Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for the City of Alexandria
  - o The FIRMs and FIS will be effective June 16, 2011
  - o The new maps reflect more accurate topography for the area, a new vertical datum (NAVD 88), and are in a digital format
  - o Due to better topographical accuracy, city-wide nearly 300 parcels are entering the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and nearly 430 parcels are leaving the SFHA.
    - Along the Potomac River, a few properties are coming out of the floodplain
    - Along Four Mile Run, a few properties are coming in to the floodplain
    - Along Cameron Run watershed, the floodplain increases in a couple of areas, but decreases overall
      - The area was restudied and resurveyed by the USACE in 2006
    - The Rosemont/Hooff's Run area was not previously mapped. There is an underground culvert that does not have enough capacity to carry a 100-year storm. Approximately 200 properties are impacted (though the structure may not be).
      - A widening of the culvert is not cost-effective at this time
    - The new FIRMs do not reflect projections of sea level rise.
  - o In Alexandria, a total of 707 parcels are in the SFHA according to the new FIRMs.
- The City is revising their Floodplain Ordinance to incorporate the effective date of the new FIRMs, add language involving a disclaimer of liability, changing the ordinance to be consistent with the state's building codes regarding elevating above the base flood elevations, and adding a condition for mixed-use parcels.

### **Alexandria Green Certification Proposal, Bobby Croghan, EPC Member**

- Bobby is working with the Chamber of Commerce on developing a green business certification/recognition mechanism.
- Laura suggested that the Chamber conduct a survey of its members on green certifications.
- Peter suggested asking a research partner to inventory certifications across the country and across sectors.
- On April 7, 2011 the Chamber is hosting a business after-hours at the Hotel Monaco. Green supplier organizations will exhibit and the EPC will have a table there. The goal will be to have a framework in mind by that time.

### **Staff and Committee Updates:**

- FY2012 Budget: Bill explained that there will be a public hearing on the budget on March 7, 2011 There
- March 2, 2011's Transportation Commission meeting will discuss Complete Streets
- The Waterfront Plan is out for public comment. Peter will look into whether a letter from the EPC endorsing the Plan will be needed.
- Jennifer, representing the EPC, attended the public hearing on the Four Mile Run expansion, where it was stated that there are plans to do environmental camps at the site.
  - o There is a Four Mile Run Task Force meeting tonight, Geoff Goode is representing the EPC at this meeting
- Jennifer and Jessica attended a session on livable communities for the aging population. Peter will be attending the second session on March 3, 2011
- Danielle and Peter are developing a letter from the EPC to the Mayor and City Council to request that sustainability/green building be a key area of experience for the next City Manager.
- Earth Day:
  - o Peter announced that there will be many events leading up and through Earth Day:
    - Art show at the Hotel Monaco of recycled materials that will run through the week leading up to Earth Day;
    - Treasure hunt along King Street for two weeks leading up to Earth Day;
    - Nest project made of recycled material along the waterfront and put on by the Torpedo Factory; and
    - A fashion show put on by the TC Williams Fashion Club on the Thursday night before Earth Day.
  - o Peter stated he is about \$3,000 short of his goal for funding for Earth Day, having raised approximately \$12,600 thus far.
- Kurt is developing a proposed chicken ordinance

### **Energy and Climate Change Action Plan**

- The EPC informational event is scheduled for March 15, 2011 at 7:30 pm
  - o A climate scientist from the EPA has kindly agreed to speak.
  - o Jennifer will reach out to the City Council to see if any members will be attending.
- The Open House is scheduled for March 26, 2011 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, followed by a tour of the school's HVAC system.
  - o Scott and Patrick H are following up with their contacts on confirming a speaker
  - o Danielle is contacting Joe Schilling as a resource.
  - o The agenda will need to be developed. The Climate Subcommittee will start shaping the public component of the Open House.

- The City is taking care of the advertizing for the events on the website, facebook, emails, etc.
  - o The revised flyer will be sent out to the EPC; Jennifer asked all members send out the flyer to organizations, groups, friends, etc
  - o There will be an outreach event at Del Ray Meet-N-Greet on March 14, 2011. Jennifer will email out for volunteers.

**Adjourn 9:45 PM**