

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
March 5, 2012 Work Session

EPC Members in Attendance

X	Peter Pennington (Chair)	✓	Danielle Fidler	✓	Kurt Moser
X	Jennifer Hovis	✓	Patrick Hagan	✓	Phil Voorhees
X	Heather Schaefer	✓	Scott Barstow	✓	Geoffrey Goode
✓	Kristen Nelson	✓	Josh Sawislak	X	Rebecca Jablon

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent]

City Staff

Khoa Tran, Bill Skrabak

Pat Hagan called meeting to order at 7:35pm

Public Comment

None.

ARHA Presentation

Roy Priest – CEO ARHA spoke about ARHA and environmental issues.

Sandra Fowler – Public Resources Consultant

(contact info attached)

ARHA gets funds from HUD for improvements. Environmental issues are important to HUD. They have a partnership with EPA. ARHA got ARRA funding last year for environmental upgrades.

Got five years of awards from the VA Housing Redevelopment Authority for environmental credits

Set up cooperative agreement with Job Link to get residents into green jobs.

ARHA has four public gardens they operate. Partnership for a Healthy Alexandria on gardens. Also working with a chef who helps residents learn how to use fresh veggies to improve nutrition and to understand sustainability. There is latent demand for garden space by residents.

Provided list of projects and details as well as some general information (attached).

Specific projects include:

- Quaker Hill
- Old Town Commons
- Old Dominion
- West Glebe Road Apartments
- Ladrey Tower.

HUD issued guidance to have units separately metered. Purpose is to encourage residents to conserve. They don't have data on how these improvements may have reduced usage. EPC suggested they ask Dominion and Wash Gas to provide cumulative consumption data for the buildings.

Provided information in their resident newsletter on how they can save energy and other environmental issues.

Work with utilities and developers to ensure they understand the state-of-the-art in energy and environmental technologies.

Have had no problem finding developers who will comply with green building requirements.

Open space is a key issue for the community and they are very involved in those aspects of the planning.

EPC asks what it can do to help ARHA. Mr. Priest said he appreciates knowing that we exist and will use us as resource.

Earth Day

Ellen Pickering Award

Deadline is 15 March 2012. Press release just went out. Discussion on extending the deadline for nomination. The sense of the Commission that it would be helpful to extend the nomination period if it's not a hardship on ASA.

Bill Skrabak will check with staff to see if it's been sent out on the City email blast.

ACVA and Chamber of Commerce would be good pathways to get the word out.

Review of EAP 2030

Air Quality

Discussion of purpose of EAP review. Based on last meeting discussion, move exercise more toward tickler for key issues EPC should discuss.

- GenOn and redevelopment of the land. City decided not to hold up the Waterfront Plan to address GenOn site specifically, but general planning concepts will apply to GenOn as well as the rest of the waterfront. It will be approx. 18 months before GenOn and PEPCO work out the land control issues. Once it's figured out, City will work on a small area plan. Site is about 25 ac. 5-6 ac are encumbered by PEPCO substation (which will remain).
- No-idling issue. Hard to enforce with public. City employees have been notified. City investigates citizen complaints.
- Outreach to community groups has not happened the way we envisioned, but we are working on a slide deck for this purpose.
- City will do emissions inventory in 2012 (to be completed in 2013 because it uses 2012 data).
- Parking decal issue and zero emission vehicles.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.