

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
 March 7, 2011 Work Session

EPC Members in Attendance

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

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent]

City Staff

Bill Skrabak, Khoa Tran

Begin 7:45 PM

Welcome and Introductions

Public Comment

- None

Blueprint for a Better Region, Coalition for Smarter Growth, Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director

- Mr. Schwartz explained the philosophy of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, advocating compact and sustainable development which minimizes environmental impacts.
- Smart growth promotes mixed-use transit-oriented development that reduces private automobile dependence.
- If done right, smart growth creates a job-housing balance within the community.
- Virginia has spent less than nine percent of transportation funds on transit, even though 14.7 percent is mandated.

Ellen Pickering Award

- Patrick B. is working with Heather Thomas of the Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA) to reach out to the public and encourage nominations.
- A press release is to go out on e-news, and should be posted on Facebook, Twitter, the Earth Day website, and the City website. A press release was sent to the local papers as well as the Washington Post.
- Patrick B. asked for volunteers to vet applicants. Geoff and Danielle offered to help, and Patrick H. offered to help as needed.

2011 Earth Day

- Peter stated there is approximately \$14,500 in the bank, but the target is \$15,000 - \$16,000.
- Peter is trying to determine the number of schools taking part.
- Jessica is getting together the exhibitors
- A tree sale will occur with the same setup as last year
- If it rains during the event, there are no alternate plans

Energy and Climate Change Action Plan

- Jennifer requested the committee members send out the word to every blog and listserv.

- Announcements have gone to other commission members, and an ad is planned for the Gazette
- **March 15th Event:**
 - The agenda for March 15th is to include two speakers: Marcus Sarofim, PhD of the EPA's climate Science and Impacts Branch; and Larry J. Schweiger, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation.
 - File cards will be provided at each seat to allow for anonymous questions
 - Khoa will get a video camera and figure the logistics in order to tape the event.
 - CFL light bulbs will be distributed.
- **March 26th Event:**
 - The Climate subgroup is working on the agenda.
 - T&ES will coordinate with City Council members once the agenda is finalized.
 - It was decided that round tables would be preferred as they will foster discussions
 - The idea was suggested that City staff facilitate the discussions
 - The Beauregard Plan could be a good reference as far as good open-ended questions.
 - The key topics at this Open House would be to garner feedback on the Plan, on how to engage the City population in environmentally-friendly behavior, and how to keep attendees involved and engaged.
 - Several copies of the Plan will be available for attendees to look through.
 - Danielle offered to work with T&ES on developing next steps attendees can take, such as participating in upcoming events or volunteer opportunities.
 - The link to the Plan and how to offer feedback should be provided to each attendee.

Staff and Committee Updates

- David Peabody, of Peabody Architects, offered to give the EPC a passive house tour. Jennifer gauged interest from EPC members and will follow up with David on a specific day and time.
- Peter and Danielle developed 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. Danielle will work with Jennifer on final revisions.
- Geoff discussed the Four Mile Run Task Force meeting he attended on February 28, 2011. He explained that there are no concrete plans as of yet; the consultant is taking feedback obtained through the meeting and refining their recommendations. Jennifer stated the EPC could write a letter of support, if needed.

Adjourn 9:50 PM