

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
May 6, 2013 EPC Work Session

EPC Members in Attendance

✓	Josh Sawislak (Chair)	X	Sam Gaugush	✓	Kurt Moser
X	Chinling Chen	✓	Scott Barstow	✓	Geoffrey Goode
✓	Steve Walz	✓	Ryan Sloan	✓	Rebecca Jablon
X	Ryan Wojtanowski	✓	Monica Starnes	✓	Jim Kapsis
✓	Patrick Holman				

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent]

City Staff

Bill Skrabak, Khoa Tran, Bill Eger, Colleen Willger

Begin 7:35 PM

Welcome and Introductions

- Josh called the meeting to order and welcomed Jim Durham, BPAC Vice Chair and Johnnie Wallace from AlexRenew

Public Comments

- None.

Annual Update on City's Green Building Policy, Colleen Willger, P&Z Department

- Colleen provided an overview of the Annual Update on the Green Building Policy which was given to the Planning Commission.
 - o The policy's aim is to encourage new development to follow a green rating system (LEED or equivalent).
 - o However, there is a clause to allow flexibility for smaller projects.
 - Areas allowing for flexibility include building design, stormwater, and open space.
 - Josh suggested that different factors be prioritized in accordance with the Environmental Action Plan.
 - o The City has reviewed 44 projects – 33 are committed to complying with the policy and obtaining a third-party green building certification; only 2 projects were not able to meet the green standards and have requested flexibility.

EPC Discussions on Climate Change Adaptation Actions

- Staff update on preliminary list of climate change impacts and preparedness goals and actions, Bill Skrabak, Director, OEQ, T&ES.
 - o Bill asked that the EPC review the list and report to him and Khoa any issues or oversights.
- Request by private citizen Kathryn Papp
 - o Kathryn requested that the EPC write a report on the impacts of projected sea level rise on city infrastructure, residences and economy.
 - o Bill S. explained that the City has an aggressive stream maintenance program and have added stream monitors in floodways so as to increase responsiveness.
 - o The City has completed a flood study for the Old Town neighborhood, which found that protection measures could be detrimental to the character of Old Town. In addition, the cost/benefit analysis found imposing measures in Old Town would not be feasible at this time.

- Bill stated that the City is monitoring sea level rise studies as they come out, but a report such as the one requested is outside the expertise of City staff.
- It was raised, that perhaps instead of a report, an outreach initiative could be developed

Other Business Matters

- “Mayor Bob” visit to Alexandria and Date for EPC June Work Session
 - Mayor Bob initiated the Eco-City effort in his city and was the key-note speaker in the Alexandria Eco-City Summit.
 - The meeting will be Wednesday June 5th at Virginia Tech, 1021 Prince Street
 - Mayor Bob will meet with Mayor Euille, Bill S. and perhaps Josh earlier in the afternoon.
 - The City Council and former EPC members will be invited to the meeting.
- Bill S. stated that the City Manager sent a memo to City Council regarding an ethanol air facility’s pursuit of an air permit. If this issue moves forward, requested a full public hearing and a minimum of a 60-day public comment.

Adjourn 9:00 PM