

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes  
May 17, 2010 Meeting

**EPC Members in Attendance**

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

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent]

**City Staff**

Khoa Tran, Bill Skrabak, Bernie Caton

**Begin 7:40 PM**

**Public Comment**

- None

**Legislative Issues for Next Year**

- Bernie Caton lead a discussion on the schedule and process for raising issues to the Virginia General Assembly. Next year will only include a 'short session' of 46 days, and the focus will likely be on redistricting, jobs and programs that can pay for themselves during the bad budget phase. EPC and the City should be looking for things where we can partner with other jurisdictions and organizations (e.g., COG or VML).
- Bernie stated that he will send a memo to all Boards and Commissions in a few weeks with an outline of the schedule and process. September 1 is the deadline for all issues; Bernie is happy to work with EPC over the summer to formulate ideas. Council must approve all ideas.
- Ideas that were discussed include the plastic bag tax (now that we have evidence of success in DC), increased car registration rates for more than one care at a household, and requiring utility companies to share usage rates.

**Staff & Committee Updates**

- Bill reported that the EPC/ECG meeting on indicators (May 11) went well. The intent is to narrow the list to fewer than 20 items to use for a brief report card.
- Peter pointed out that we should attempt to capture work by schools somehow.
- MCMG met May 13 and the independent engineers' recommendations were accepted. The wind screen is currently on hold until there is confirmation that the settlement money (\$34 million) will cover all three planned bag houses. The plan will go to Council in June.
- The EPC letter regarding the Del Ray BBQ restaurant was sent to Council; Council approved the SUP with some compromise on operating hours.
- Peter provided an update on other meetings and developments via email (including Earth Day, Waterfront).
- EPC received via email an update on the very successful implementation of the City's green building policy.

**Administrative Items**

- April 19 and May 3 minutes approved with no edits required.
- EPC has a new vacancy for an environmental scientist position.

**EAP Implementation**

- EPC will break into subgroups again during the next work session.

- Laura reported that Arlington County recently canceled a green business workshop due to lack of interest. Outreach and marketing will be very important for planned Eco-City business events.
- Several EPC members voiced frustration over the recent *Washington Examiner* article about the new recycling bins in the City. The tone of the article and reader comments focused on perceived 'Big Brother' aspects of the tracking chip. Laura agreed to take the lead on a letter to Council voicing support for the new bins (which are larger with secure covers) and the tracking chip that will allow for targeted outreach to neighborhoods where recycling rates are low.

**Adjourn 9:30 PM**