

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
June 18, 2012 EPC Meeting

EPC Members in Attendance

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

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent]

Skip Maginniss, Chamber of Commerce representative, was in attendance as well

City Staff

Khoa Tran, Bill Skrabak, Bill Eger, Bob Taylor and Lalit Sharma

Begin 7:35 PM

Welcome and Introductions

- Peter Pennington, Chair, called the meeting to order.
- Rob Kupricka, City Councilman, and Rashad Young, City Manager were welcomed to the meeting
- Bruce Roberts, a local citizen, was welcomed as well.

Public Comments

- None

EPC Discussions with City Manager Rashad M. Young

- Remarks by EPC Chair Peter Pennington
 - o Peter gave a brief introduction to the role of the EPC and introduced Danielle.
- Brief Presentation by EPC Vice Chair Danielle Fidler
 - o Danielle gave a brief description of the history of the EPC, who makes up the EPC and what the Commission does.
 - o The EPC strives to maintain and enhance the traits that make Alexandria special while accounting for population growth and climate change.
 - o Eco-City Alexandria is a partnership between the City, EPC, Va Tech and the community
 - o Danielle discussed the development of the Eco-City Charter and the Environmental Action Plan 2030 (EAP).
 - o The Eco-City program is one the City has been recognized for, winning several awards and the Mayor was invited to speak before Congress.
 - o Councilman Kupricka commended the EPC on their efforts in working hard, putting in the hours to develop the EAP.
 - o The City has accomplished many Eco-City goals, including:
 - Completed city/community GHG Emissions Inventory;
 - Tracking and reporting on environmental indicators;
 - Adopted Climate Change Plan;
 - Joined Capital Bikeshare;
 - Highest ever solid waste recycling rate;
 - Innovative energy-efficiency projects at city facilities
 - o It is important to now give more definition in medium- and long-term goals and action items.

- Mr. Young appreciated the presentation and stated that he feels that sustainability should be thought of in a broader context, that it informs everything the City does. He explained the City is working to get better coordinated to prioritize goals and actions.
- The EPC mentioned that the green purchasing policy currently under development is a great example. Early in the process, the Purchasing Department had asked the EPC for guidance. Skip asked for further information on the progress of the policy. Mr. Young said he would look into it and report back.
- Scott discussed EPC outreach plans. The EPC is currently putting the finishing touches on a presentation to give to homeowner's associations throughout the city.
- Peter also mentioned the EPC is working to get out there among the community through various activities such as tables at farmer's markets, attending local community meetings, Earth Day, the environmental film festival with the library and working with other commissions and committees. Peter also mentioned the Green Business Recognition Program the EPC developed with the ACVA.
- Heather discussed the EPC's communication efforts to date. The EPC has a facebook page and Heather has set up forum. It would be great to allow links to these pages on the City's EPC and Eco-City webpages.
 - o Heather also asked about the possibility of a dedicated IT person updating regularly the EPC and Eco-City webpages. T&ES employees are accessible and responsive and update when they can, but nothing beats a dedicated person.
- The EPC would love to see more marketing centered around Eco-City, such as recycling bins in main tourist areas with the Eco-City logo.
- Peter asked about the possibility of a public charging station in the city, which could show that the City is serious about sustainability.
- When asked about his goals regarding sustainability for the City, Mr. Young offered several ideas:
 - o Building efficiency: an examination of how the facilities are used and laid out;
 - o Economic development: looking into how to incentivize the creation of green jobs;
 - o Bicycle network and facilities: improving the bicycle network and shower facilities within City buildings; and
 - o The creation of a wellness center for City employees.
- The EPC wants to work with the City to achieve sustainability goals in any way it can.

Member and Staff Updates

- Peter asked Bob Taylor, Chief, Natural Resources Division, to kindly explain his role with the City.
 - o Bob is new to the City and the division is a new one, as a result his role is developing; however, currently his division runs the Urban Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Lands Management Programs.
- Danielle discussed the EPC interest in developing a park on George Washington Middle School's campus. Bob and Danielle agreed to discuss the idea further.
- Bill S. stated the CSO permit negotiations are still ongoing and will keep EPC abreast of any developments and will appreciate EPC's help in getting the word out on the issue.
 - o Scott asked that T&ES provide slides to the EPC to incorporate into the presentations to the homeowner's associations.
- Bill E. gave several updates:
 - o On May 22nd, the annual energy review was presented to City Council.
 - o On June 26th, he will be requesting from City Council to apply to the Better Business Challenge. Bill will provide more details to the EPC and would love their help on outreach.

- The VA State Corporation Commission is currently looking at two Dominion Virginia Power cases regarding solar energy. Bill will follow the cases as they develop.
- Bill is currently reviewing the negotiations between Dominion and jurisdictions within Virginia on LED street lighting. He will pass on updates to the EPC.
- Danielle stated that the Environmental Film Festival with Beatley Library is developing and that there might be an Eco-City film night. The festival will try to tie in with the Alexandria Film Festival and Earth Day and is looking into possibly speakers.
- On June 20th, there will be a meeting at the Four Mile Run Community Center for a progress report on implementing the Arlandria Master Plan. Kurt will try to attend.
- July 7th is the city's birthday celebration. The EPC will have a stall and Peter asked for volunteers to join him.

Administrative Items

- The minutes from May 7th, May 21st and June 4th were approved.

EPC Elections for FY2013

- Rebecca announced the nominations for each position and the following individuals were elected:
 - Chair: Peter Pennington
 - Vice Chair: Josh Sawislak
 - Secretary: Rebecca Jablon
 - Earth Day Chair: Tabled for now
 - Earth Day Vice Chair: Chinling Chen
 - Mirant Community Monitoring Group: Peter Pennington
 - Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group: Josh Sawislak
 - Waterfront Commission: Peter Pennington
 - Four Mile Run Task Force: Kurt Moser
 - Transportation Commission: Josh Sawislak
 - Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group: Kurt Moser

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Adjourn 9:35 PM