

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
July 2, 2012 EPC Meeting

EPC Members in Attendance

✓	Peter Pennington (Chair)	✓	Danielle Fidler	✓	Kurt Moser
✓	Jennifer Hovis	✓	Josh Sawislak	✓	Geoffrey Goode
✓	Kristen Nelson	✓	Scott Barstow	✓	Rebecca Jablon
✓	Chinling Chen	✓	Stephen Walz		

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent]

City Staff

Bill Skrabak, Tim Banner, Sandra Marks

Begin 7:35 PM

Welcome and Introductions

- Peter Pennington, Chair, called the meeting to order.
- Tim Stevens, a member of the Falls Church Environmental Policy Council, was welcomed to the meeting.

Public Comments

- Tim Stevens has been attending fellow EPC meetings to explain an idea that if each organization could get behind one legislative item, the Power Purchasing Agreement, the mass support could help push it through.
 - o The Solar Power Purchase Agreement is when a third-party entity owns, operates and maintains the solar system, and a host entity agrees to site the system on its property. The third-party entity gets the tax write-offs.
 - o Mr. Stevens asked that the EPC consider the legislation and if so inclined to push it forward.
 - o The EPC will mull this over and have a formal vote at our retreat.

Solid Waste Recycling Program Update, Stiles Peabody, Recycling Program Analyst, T&ES Solid Waste Division

- The Solid Waste Division manages nearly 25% of the total municipal solid waste (MSW) stream.
- The Division is also responsible for residential recycling and drop-off centers, street cleaning and special event recycling, fall leaf collection and Christmas tree recycling, spring cleanup collections and household hazardous waste and electronics recycling and disposal
 - o There will be special emphasis this year on special event recycling. The City currently supports over 20 special events throughout the year (including Earth Day)
- The City achieved a 48% recycling rate for CY 2011, the highest yet.
- Residential recycling collection increased by 15% for CY 2011, due to increased participation
- A new public drop-off recycling place in northern part of the city is coming soon (in addition to the four existing drop-off sites)
- There are limited composting facilities in the area; all in Maryland have been closed.

Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), Jonathan Krall, Chair

- Jonathan introduced Jerry King, Vice Chair of BPAC, and Amos Desjardins, BPAC
- Jonathan gave an overview of BPAC:

- BPAC is not an official commission of the City, but is modeled after other bicycle advisory committees
- BPAC currently has 13 members (maximum is 15)
- Their mission is provide citizen input in planning bicycle and pedestrian improvements and to promote bicycling and walking in the city of Alexandria
- Priorities and issues:
 - Make biking and walking more attractive and more safe
 - Increase bicycle parking in spots that do not obstruct the sidewalk
 - Outreach to business community
 - Let them know that a business can ask the City for a bicycle rack in front of the store, if it is public land
 - Battle the perception that customers would not come on bikes
 - Identify and fill in gaps in the pedestrian and bicycle network
- There is a City program that deals with new construction, but doesn't discuss retrofitting – BPAC is trying to work with the City to develop a retrofitting program.
- BPAC does civic engagement, public outreach, the Bike Friendly Community Renewal Program, community bike rides and the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project – bike and pedestrian counts should be part of the Alexandria transportation planning effort.
 - BPAC is looking for volunteers for the next counts: July 12th and 14th.
- BPAC would like to work with the EPC to push for more bike lanes and to coordinate on priorities.

Administrative Items

- The EPC picnic will be held July 15, 2012 from 11 – 2, at Fort Ward Park
 - It is a potluck – Rebecca will email out to see what folks can bring
- The Annual Report will written and sent out over email
- The minutes from June 18, 2012 were approved

Staff Updates

- Installation of the solar panels at Beatley Library will begin at the end of July, as will the installation of the green roof at Burke Library.
- The City's CSO system and sanitary sewer collection system was inspected by EPA
- Pepco has one final sign-off on GenOn plant, no further approvals are needed
- The City presented Eco-City at the sustainability conference for the American Public Works Association
- City council approved joining the Better Business Initiative

Adjourn 9:40 PM