

**Environmental Policy Commission Minutes  
 July 15, 2013 EPC Regular Meeting  
 City Hall, Room 1101**

**EPC Members in Attendance**

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

[✓ = In attendance X = Absent]

**City Staff in Attendance**

Bill Eger, Lalit Sharma, Khoa Tran,

**Begin 7:30 PM**

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Public Comments**

- Clarke Herbert spoke regarding a rise in cigarette butts deposited as litter and their subsequent impact on the environment (particularly the Potomac watershed). Suggested EPC work to raise public awareness of proper disposal of cigarettes.

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

- In 2014, the collection of yard waste will occur year-round, which is estimated to remove approximately 3000 tonnes from the waste stream. Yard waste is currently mulched and made available to the public.
  - In response to a question from EPC: the reduction in waste stream is not expected to impact on-going negotiations with Covanta regarding tipping fees
- With the use of contingent funding, the city is conducting several activities, including –
  - Procuring 50 public recycling bins utilizing the same model as the black trash bins. These will begin appearing in mid-November.
    - EPC suggested examining the potential for reusing existing black trash bins as recycling bins, assuming waste stream decreased with additional recycling capacity.
  - Procuring two compactors for TC Williams to assist with refuse/recycling.
  - Beginning food waste recovery at the Alexandria Farmer’s Market
- In recognition of recycling efforts, city is looking at deploying small trash cans
- Work continues on the Four Mile Run recycling drop off center; an interim site has been identified with the Parks and Rec Department, with planning continuing on a permanent siting.

**Update on Dominion Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Meters, Allison Kaufmann, AMI Program Manager, Dominion Virginia Power**

- Dominion has had significant success with their existing program to date.
- Remote meter reading (twice daily) provides valuable information about electricity usage and costs, while eliminating the need for employees to access property and reducing utility truck traffic
  - Benefits include: voltage conservation; outage notification; remote turn on/off;

- and smart pricing (separate from automatic cycling of air conditioners)
- Next steps: From May 2013 to May 2014, Dominion will be deploying approximately 200,000 meters, beyond the 20,300 already installed.
    - Significant customer outreach is taking place in advance of upgrades, with particular emphasis around privacy.
    - Dominion is offering a non-communicating meter option, but noted that only 47 customers have opted out. In the near-term, this is a no-fee option, but in the future it will require a fee.
  - Not presently focused on interactions with appliances or home area networks

### **Bikeshare Program Update, Carrie Sanders, Principal Planner, T&ES Transportation Planning Division**

- The region has seen significant expansion of bike sharing over the past several years. DC has reached full cost recovery, with Arlington at 54 percent cost recovery in the first year. Alexandria is already seeing 50 percent cost recovery in the first 7 months, compared with 30 percent projected.
- Alexandria is doubling the size of its bike stations from eight to sixteen. Generally, the focus on the expansion is on connectivity to transit between metrorail stations, adjacent to libraries and community stations, and near tourist destinations.
- Technically speaking, solar panel exposure is necessary for station recharging, with clearance from utilities, pedestrian and parking/parked vehicles. Adequate room for maintenance vehicles is also a factor in siting stations.
- Funding of the stations is still subsidized in Alexandria (approx \$187k for the eight current stations); in response to a question, it was pointed out that New York City's bike share program is entirely privatized.
- There is currently no agreement with WMATA to site bike share stations at on metro station property

### **EPC Elections**

- Scott Barstow was elected EPC Chair, Jim Kapsis was elected EPC Vice Chair, and Patrick Holman was elected EPC Secretary for the Fiscal Year 2014 term.

### **Administrative Updates**

- Minutes approved from June 17 Regular Meeting
- City staff informed EPC that its Annual Report is due July 31<sup>st</sup>
- City staff led a discussion of the EPC calendar for FY 2014
- On August 5, the EPC will co-host a public meeting on the Combined Sewer System permitting process, to be held in City Hall Room 1101 at 7:30pm
- The EPC picnic is scheduled for August 18

### **Adjourn 9:00 PM**