

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes  
 October 1, 2012 EPC Work Session

**EPC Members in Attendance**

✓	Peter Pennington (Chair)	X	Danielle Fidler	X	Kurt Moser
✓	Chinling Chen	✓	Josh Sawislak	✓	Geoffrey Goode
✓	Steve Walz	✓	Scott Barstow	✓	Rebecca Jablon
		✓	Ryan Sloan		

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent]

**City Staff**

Bill Skrabak, Khoa Tran

**Begin 7:30 PM**

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Josh, acting Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed Jan MacPherson and Ryan Wojtanowski

**EPC Retreat Follow-up and Priority Setting**

- The EPC discussed what actions are going to be pushed through this fiscal year and beyond.
  - o The EPC will continue to push through the priorities as prescribed in the Charter, such as advising City Council, reaching out to the community, following stormwater requirements and regulations, etc.
  - o A strategic priority will be to encourage City Council to establish and fund a sustainability coordinator/public education and outreach position (as described in the EAP and the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan's [eCAP])
    - The City Manager is seeking to align the Alexandria City Council Strategic Plan with the budget. Khoa will send out a copy of the Plan to the EPC
    - The EPC should aim for the first week of November to submit a letter to City Council (cc'd to the City Manager) on this issue
    - Further discussion on the letter to be drafted is tabled for the next meeting.
  - o Earth Day will continue to be a priority for the EPC
  - o Promote business support of the Eco-City concept, which could become a differentiator for the city
    - The EPC will work with the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association (ACVA) to promote and advance the Green Business Recognition Program
      - The EPC will set up a meeting with ACVA to discuss enhancing outreach efforts and developing a more easily navigable website
  - o Peter is currently on a group discussing the development of the new Jefferson-Houston Pre-K School. Peter raised several environmental considerations at the first meeting, and the second meeting should be scheduled in the near future. Steve will attend the next meeting as well
  - o Support reduction in energy usage and greenhouse gas generation
    - Steve will reach out to Danielle and together will follow up with Opower on exploring the possibility of implementing their program (or a similar one) in Alexandria

- The EPC will further investigate opportunities to show its support of such programs
- The EPC will work with the City to evaluate initiatives outlined in the eCAP as well as develop other potential options for helping reduce the community's greenhouse gas emissions, in terms of tons of CO<sub>2</sub>eq reduced per net dollar invested. The initiatives described in the eCAP are:
  - Tier 1 Energy Audit: providing residents with a checklist and other resources for conducting a quick, visual home energy audit.
  - Tier 2 Energy Audit: providing residents with a more comprehensive audit, including a wide range of measures for all end-uses, and at many price points.
  - Energy Conservation Program (Green Building Phase II): targeting existing buildings and homes in addition to new development requiring a Development Site Plan or Development Special Use Permit to achieve a LEED Silver or an equivalent rating for nonresidential development and LEED certified or equivalent for residential development.
  - Green Jobs Training for Weatherization Technicians/Energy Auditors: training approximately 40 residents as energy auditors and matching them with waiting employers.
  - Green Revolving Loan Program: providing sources of money from which loans are made for installation of green technologies.
  - Commercial Food Service Audit & Conservation Program: providing incentives for energy-efficient commercial food service equipment.
  - Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility Plan: providing a blueprint for 10 years of on-the-ground safety, mobility and connectivity improvements.
  - Transportation Master Plan Implementation: promoting a balance between travel efficiency and quality of life within the City.
- Work with Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities on the possibility of creating a small-scale nature center and community garden at George Washington Middle School.
  - Community buy-in will be necessary – as volunteers will be needed to water the garden during the summer months
  - In addition, a map of the old utilities on site will be needed
  - The EPC will look to the Forestry Action Plan for any guidance and discussion on this site
  - Josh and Peter will talk to Danielle about next steps
- Develop a homeowner's guide on how to deal with climate change – the concept of which is to state the why as well as the how; to show the cause and effect. The EPC will look into whether this has already been developed elsewhere.
- The EAP is due for a revision in 2013

### **Consideration of the Public Health Advisory Commission Action Plan on Respiratory Health**

- The EPC appreciates the work and efforts of the Public Health Advisory Commission and supports their overall goals, particularly those that overlap with the EAP. However, the EPC does not feel qualified in backing the specific issues as outlined in the Action Plan

### **Special EPC Election**

- The following individuals were elected:
  - o Vice-Chair: Scott Barstow
  - o Earth Day Chair: former EPC member (and most recent Earth Day Chair), Jennifer Hovis
  - o Waterfront Commission: Tabled for now; Scott and Josh volunteered to fill in until a replacement for Peter can be found

**Adjourn 9:25 PM**