

Environmental Policy Commission Work Session Minutes  
November 2, 2009

EPC Members Present:

Keith Freihofer, Jessica Bayliss Brown, Scott Barstow, Peter Pennington, Patricia Hilgard, Kurt Moser, Laura Medhurst, Phil Voorhees

City Staff: William Skrabak, Khoa Tran

Public Comment:

No public present

Liaison and Representative Report:

- Social Activity
  - More than 100 people attended the green food movie at the GW Masonic Memorial. A dynamic and diverse panel discussion followed the screening.
- Potomac Yard Planning Group
  - The current proposal is based on 7.2M feet square, while the original was only 600K feet square.
  - The proposed metro station is about 12 years away. Part of the reason is because it needs to be approved by the National Park Service.
  - The question on how to bring sewage service to the proposed development remains outstanding.
    - Which facilities to use: Alexandria or Arlington?
  - The City needs to find the money to create additional sewage capacity or redo the plan.
  - Concerns about increased traffic remain high among Del Ray residents.
    - Residents argued that additional traffic calming measures need to be explored.
  - Peter noted the Potomac Avenue would be the only curved business corridor in the city and this may negatively affect its walkability.
- Beauregard Corridor Plan
  - Residents are beginning to realize they no longer live in a suburb.
  - There was talk about building an urban (i.e. one building) school.
  - Residents are worried about transportation, parking, and density.
  - **The next work session is Thursday, November 5.**
- Green Food Group
  - Chaired by Carrie Fesperman
  - Many of the members are from Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA).
  - Mayor Euille and Councilman Krupicka attended the meeting, which focused upon:
    - Increasing access to fresh foods and vegetables for people with low-incomes by developing community gardens nearby.

- Increasing the amount of community gardens in Alexandria as a whole.
  - **The next meeting in November 9 at the Durant Center from 6:30-8:00.**
  - *King Corn* will be playing November 15 in Shirlington.
  - The Green Food Group is working with the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria to help people with low incomes use food stamps at farmer's markets.
- E2C2 Meeting at 5:30 at Evening Star on Sunday.
- BRAC Meeting
  - The building is now going to be designed to LEED Gold standard, but no one has worked out the road situation yet.
  - VDOT has already cut down 100+ trees.
- Waterfront
  - The Planning Commission made a short presentation.
  - Peter suggested that Oronoco will become more family friendly.
  - There is a Resource Protection Area Plan in development.
- Tour of Sidwell School
  - This school has achieved a LEED Platinum rating.
  - There is a demonstration solar plant, but it only generates 2-5% of the school's power.
  - The school would have acquired the rating even without the demonstration power plant.
    - Suggestion that the school perform audits to ensure it is performing to the standard it acquired.
- Green Building
  - There have been a lot of enforcement issues so incentives need to be addressed.
  - The City is still interviewing candidates for the energy manager position. The City is still waiting for stimulus money to arrive.
- Outreach
  - Jessica attended the Planning Symposium and Joe Schilling gave a presentation on eco-cities.

#### EAP 2030:

- Post request for additional suggestions on the blog.
- For Action: Remind commissioners how to register and use the blog.
- The City accepted the proposal to post a hyperlink from it's website to the blog.

#### EPC Inputs to the Council Strategic Planning Sessions:

- The Goal 2 meeting is open to the public, but it is designed for stakeholders.
- The Transportation meeting is November 9. Peter will attend.
  - EPC members should submit comments to the City online.

#### Clean-up at Holmes Run:

- The clean-up at Holmes Run Park will occur on November 7.
- There is also another clean-up on November 14.