

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
December 6, 2010 Work Session

EPC Members in Attendance

✓	Jennifer Hovis (Chair)	✓	Danielle Fidler	✓	Kurt Moser
✓	Jessica Bayliss Brown	✓	Patrick Hagan	✓	Peter Pennington
✓	Patrick Brennan	✓	Scott Barstow	✓	Phil Voorhees
✓	Bobby Croghan	✓	Laura Medhurst	✓	Geoffrey Goode
				✓	Rebecca Jablon

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent]

City Staff

Khoa Tran, Bill Skrabak

Begin 7:35 PM

Welcome and Introductions

- Jennifer introduced Geoffrey Goode as the newest member to the EPC

Public Comment

- None

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Brendan Shultz, Government Relations Director

- The Chamber, a supporter of the Eco-City initiative, can serve as a conduit to introduce the business community to the EPC
 - o The Chamber has monthly business after hours events which could incorporate green topics and ideas
 - o The Chamber hosts a breakfast every other month, called Hot Topics, where the EPC could hold a talk
 - o The Chamber gives out an annual green business award which they would be interested in expanding
 - o The EPC could also present to the Government Relations Committee
- The majority of those who attend Chamber events are small business owners
- The Chamber publicizes their events and what other businesses are doing through e-news, mailings, and their website
- Earth Day could be a good opportunity to kick off the relationship between the Chamber and the EPC

Holmes Run/Cameron Run Maintenance Update

- In 1998, the City did normal maintenance, which consisted of clear-cutting the banks. However, residents became upset with the idea that trees were being cut down. As a result, the Maintenance Plan was developed and adopted in 2002.
- This year the City will be removing trees within the banks of the floodway, removing 3-5 feet to increase carrying capacity of the channel. In addition, sediment deposits will be removed.
- Holmes Run will be done this winter; Cameron Run will be put out to bid.
- The tree work is to begin in January.
- There are approximately 8-12 acres of additional tree canopy as a result of the adopted plan
- Much of what's removed gets re-used
- The City is talking to arborists in order to assess the use of an herbicide used at the stumps of trees.

Ellen Pickering Award

- It is the third year of the award, which is given out on Earth Day.
- The award is given in partnership with the Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA)
- In January public announcements will go out. Coordination will be needed with the ASA on language
- Peter will announce it as part of Earth Day
- The award is given to citizens, organizations, businesses who accomplish profound change/work for the environment
- Last year, there were only three nominations, so it is important to begin public outreach early
- Patrick B. volunteered to lead this effort.
- The trees planted for Earth Day and in honor of the recipients of the award have died – the EPC is considering other ideas.
- Khoa stated that eventually there will be an Eco-City wall at City Hall

Energy and Climate Change Action Plan Adoption Outreach

- Bill met with the Deputy City Manager and shared a copy of the Draft Plan, where it was discussed that City department heads and the City Manager should be briefed on the Plan before it goes to the public
 - o Plan to meet with the department heads in January, and meet with the City Manager by the end of February
- At the end of February, the Plan will be released for public comment
- The Open House is likely to occur in March
- The EPC informational events were tentatively scheduled for January 29th and January 31st. However, with the Open House now tentatively scheduled for March, the EPC should look into dates closer to the Open House.
- The date of the events will be dependent in part on the speakers.
 - o Though the March 7th meeting is already booked with a representative from Smart Growth for America
- Laura, Patrick H. and Scott will look into getting a speaker(s) on the state of climate change in terms of impacts on coastal communities and/or the state of climate science
 - o Danielle suggested Joe Schilling as a potential resource. Scott volunteered to contact Joe.
 - o If anyone else has ideas on a potential speaker, please send them to Laura, Patrick H. and Scott
- Khoa will have a revised schedule at the next EPC meeting
- The Open House should have a component mentioning ways to volunteer in a long-term sustained manner.
 - o Danielle and Peter will work together on developing that.

Adjourn 9:10 PM