

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes

December 16, 2013

City Hall, Room 1101

EPC Members in Attendance

✓	Scott Barstow	X	Jim Kapsis	✓	Monica Starnes
X	Christopher Gamache	✓	Kathryn Mika	✓	Steve Walz
✓	Sam Gaugush	X	Kurt Moser	✓	Ryan Wojtanowski
✓	Geoffrey Goode	X	Josh Sawislak		
✓	Patrick Holman	✓	Ryan Sloan		

[✓ = In attendance X = Absent]

City Staff

Bill Eger, Khoa Tran

Begin 7:30 PM

Welcome and Introductions

Public Comments

- None

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Minutes for EPC Meeting on December 2, 2013 were approved with minor edits.

Georgetown Energy Prize Overview, Bill Eger, Energy Manager, General Services Department

- City staff presented an overview of the Georgetown Energy Prize competition (<http://www.guep.org/>).
- It is a multiyear competition aimed at municipalities with populations between 5,000 and 250,000 that will result in the award of \$5 million to a community that demonstrates extraordinary leadership in energy efficiency.
- Interested communities are to submit a non-binding Letter of Intent by February 14, 2014 (endorsed by the local government jurisdiction). Over the next sixty days, applications are developed that would describe the projects to be pursued. (e.g., home performance energy star program)
- EPC members inquired as to other interested communities. Staff noted that many are interested (e.g., Arlington, Fairfax City) but none have committed. It was a general sense of EPC members that opportunities for teaming are not to be ignored (teaming can only occur between jurisdictions that are contiguous).
- Staff noted that the municipality must be a partner, but need to lead the team. The competition also requires teaming with a utility. Staff also noted that while there exists the potential for support from competition organizers during the application phase, the City lacks the resources necessary to commit to the time needed to develop an application. EPC would likely need to take this on as a pet project.

- EPC members agreed to tentatively pursue a letter of intent and to assess resources for carrying this out, and asked city staff to schedule time during the January 6, 2014 meeting to discuss further.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute Building Energy Benchmarking

- WPI students Nathan Costa, Mai Tomida, and Jiedong (JD) Wang presented their research on building energy benchmarking to the EPC.
- This project was supported by the City of Alexandria and Northern Virginia Regional Commission. While part of the WPI curriculum, the work performed was professionally focused and equivalent to the type of work contracted for by the City.
- The goal was to benchmark government building use in Alexandria and to develop a labeling template to display energy usage data.
- Buildings selected were greater than 5,000 square feet with a minimum of 12 months of utility data. The 41 benchmarked properties constituted approximately 60 percent of total city energy use, and had built dates that ranged from 1773 to 2001.
- The project utilized EPA's Energy Use Intensity score and Energy Star score to benchmark building performance.
- The team pursued a labeling approach that would represent the building's energy performance, show energy performance trends, be easy to understand and be visually appealing.
- EPC members applauded the students for their efforts, but questioned the true comparability of building assessed. The overall consensus is that comparisons are very difficult to make. In response to further questions, the students noted that no real patterns emerged, making targeted investment difficult.

Staff News

- Josh Sawislak resigned his position on the EPC due to potential conflict of interest associated with assuming a new position with the US Department for Housing and Urban Development.
- Josh's departure opened up an EPC position on the City's Transportation Commission. Monica Starnes was unanimously selected to fill this position.
- City staff announced that Christopher Gamache also resigned his position on the EPC.
- Ryan Wojtanowski gave a brief summary of engagements he's undertaken on waterfront development issues, focused on erosion issues.
- Pertaining to the King Street Bike Lane issue, it was advised that Rich Baier, Director of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, would likely be issuing his decision on December 17.

Adjourn 9:30 PM