



AGENDA

EPC Regular Meeting

Monday, September 30, 2019

7:30 – 9:30 PM

City Hall, Conference Room 2000

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:30 – 7:35 | Welcome & Introductions |
| 7:35 – 8:10 | Administrative Items and Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of June 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes and FY19 Annual & Attendance Reports• EPC Nomination and Election of Vice-Chair• Waterfront Commission – Eldon Boes• Alexandria Earth Day Planning Committee –• Transportation Commission – Carolyn Schroeder• EW/LVD Advisory Group – Reid Sherman• River Renew Stakeholder Advisory Group – Craig Berry• Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Group (PYMIG) – James Hook• Green Building Policy Update Task Force – Brendan Owens• AHAAC-EPC Subcommittee Meeting – Brendan Owens, Craig Berry |
| 8:10 -8:40 | Stormwater Management Strategies, Jesse Maines, Division Chief, Joni Calmbacher, CE III, T&ES, Stormwater Division |
| 8:40 – 9:00 | EPC Annual Retreat Recap |
| 9:00 – 9:20 | EPC Budget Letter |
| 9:20 – 9:30 | City 2020 Legislative Package |
| 9:30 | Adjourn |



Minutes EPC REGULAR MEETING

June 17, 2019

7:30 – 9:30 PM

City Hall, Room 2000

Attendance

EPC Members		Staff
Humza Arshad	P	Khoa Tran
Craig Berry	P	Ellen Eggerton
Eldon Boes	P	
Geoffrey Goode	P	
James Hook	P	
Leslie Jones	A	
James Kapsis	P	Guests
Praveen Kathpal	P	Kathie Hoekstra
Michael Kulas	P	
Brendan Owens	A	
Carolyn Schroeder	A	
Reid Sherman	P	

P: Present; A: Absent; R: Representing EPC at other boards/ commissions

Welcome & Introductions

Chair Praveen Kathpal called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. The Chair then welcomed new EPC member, Mr. Humza Arshad.

Public Comments

Ms. Hoekstra mentioned a resolution regarding climate emergency/urgency and that she would contact elected officials to discuss it. EPC Chair asked for a copy of that resolution.

Administrative Items & Committee Reports

- Minutes of the EPC meeting on April 22, 2019 was approved as is.
- DASH Board Update reported by Jim Kapsis

- In its last meeting, DASH Board discussed EAP 2040 and revisioning of DASH routes and services. DASH staff will come back to the board in the Fall to present plan.
- Waterfront Commission reported by Eldon Boes
 - Commission was briefed on the RiverRenew project.
- Earth Day Planning Committee – Eldon Boes
 - Attendance at the 2019 Earth Day was down significantly. Key players such as the City, ACPS, and EPC were not participating as well as expected.
 - A written proposed partnership agreement had just been received from ACPS for City and EPC's consideration.
 - Jim Kapsis requested that Eldon write a post-mortem report and emphasize areas for improvement.
- Transportation Commission reported by Praveen Kathpal
 - The EPC sent a letter to the Traffic and Parking Board in support of the alternative 3 of the Seminary Road Complete Street project.
- EW/LVD Advisory Group reported by Reid Sherman
 - The Group was briefed on the Greenhill South development and the status of the Virginia Paving SUP.
- River Renew Stakeholder Advisory Group reported by Geoff Goode
 - Next meeting will be on June 20.
 - Advisory Group is awaiting the Environmental Assessment report.
- PYMIG reported by Chair Kathpal
 - PYMIG held meeting last week and discussed merits of the three alternatives for South entrance to the Metrorail.
 - Third alternative appeared to be preferred by the public and PYMIG but it is expensive. Staff will come back next meeting to present further analysis.
- Green Building Policy Update Task Force – Jim Kapsis
 - There are still 3 areas of divergence between EPC and staff: 1) EAP 2030 target of new buildings to be carbon neutral by 2030 being omitted in the EAP 2040; 2) FTE re green building – Staff wants it to be a budget item while the EPC wants it to be an action as part of EAP 2040; and 3) Staff is pushing incentives for green building to mid term while EPC wants to move it to short term.
 - Brendan will review staff response to the EPC letter to the Planning Commission.
- AHAAC-EPC Subcommittee Meeting – Craig berry
 - In April meeting, AHAAC expressed concerns about increased cost of green buildings might negatively impact on affordable housing in the City.
 - Need to have 1-2 objectives for next year.

EPC Annual Elections – Conducted by Geoff Goode

- Chair – There was one nomination and Praveen Kathpal was unanimously voted to be Chair for the FY2020.

- Vice-Chair – There was no nomination, although Praveen nominated Jim Kapsis as interim Vice-Chair until the EPC retreat. Jim accepted the nomination and pointed out that he would like the EPC to appoint a permanent Vice-Chair for FY20. The EPC voted unanimously to appoint Jim Kapsis as interim Vice-Chair until the EPC retreat on September 14.
- Secretary – Two EPC members self-nominated for this position. EPC voted to appoint Michael Kulas as Secretary for FY2020.
- Earth Day Planning Committee Chair – Eldon Boes had previously notified the EPC that he did not want to continue as Chair of this committee. Since there was no nomination at this meeting, this position remains vacant for now.

FY2020 EPC Calendar

- There are no EPC meetings during July and August.
- As proposed by the Chair, EPC voted to eliminate all work sessions, with the only exception for September 9 work session to plan for the EPC Annual Retreat.
- The Annual Retreat will be on September 14 at the TC Williams Minnie Howard Campus, to be followed by the picnic to be held at the Fort Ward Park, Area 2.
- The staff proposed meeting dates were approved. Following the meeting, staff changed the January meeting date from January 13 to January 27 due to space availability.

EAP Retreat

- The Chair mentioned the EPC priorities including the 2020 City legislative package, the budget, and objectives for FY2020.
- Praveen provided a proposed outline for how the EPC should be divided into sub-groups that would work closely with staff to monitor progress in various sections of the EAP2040:
 - Climate/Energy – Reid/Geoff
 - Green building/Open Space/Land Use – Brendan/Mike/Leslie
 - Transportation – Carolyn/Eldon/Reid
 - Water/Waste – Geoff/Leslie
 - Communication/Implementation/Matrix – Praveen
 - Environmental Health/Air Quality – was not mentioned by Praveen at the meeting.
- Praveen will put in further thoughts and elaborate these in a separate email to EPC members.

EAP Phase 2 Update

- EPC would like to know if the complete EAP2040 document having all sections and including the green building and open space sections, would be voted by Council on July 9.
- Ellen clarified that EAP adoption vote for the complete EAP 2040 will occur on July 9 and no vote will occur on June 22.
- Staff to find out and share with the EPC when EAP actions will be started to meet the completion dates in EAP.

- Staff to find out timing for the 2020 legislative package.
- Ellen to provide a list of 2021 EAP budget items from EAP 2040.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

DRAFT



ALEXANDRIA
Environmental Policy Commission



Picture taken at Council Chamber on Occasion of Council Adoption of the Environmental Action Plan 2040, July 9, 2019

FY 2019 EPC Annual Report

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

1. Introduction

The Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) was established under Chapter 4, Article M, of the City Code to “advise and make recommendations to the City Council and, when appropriate, to the Planning Commission and City Manager.” This report provides a summary of EPC activities during Fiscal Year 2019 (FY2019).

2. Who We Are

The Alexandria City Council established the EPC in 1970 to advise and make recommendations to the City Council and, where appropriate, to the Planning Commission and City Manager, on matters relating to the following:

- Clean air;
- Land use;
- Noise pollution and abatement;
- Pesticides, herbicides and contaminants;
- Solid waste;
- Water quality and supply;
- Other matters referred to the EPC by the City and citizens; and
- Other topics relating to the conservation and protection of Alexandria’s environment.

The EPC, when fully appointed consists of 13 members, including five members from the field of environmental sciences, five citizen-at-large members, one member from the field of urban planning, one member with experience in Federal or state environmental statues/regulations, and one representative from the Alexandria business community. The EPC regularly works with other organizations to further the environmental goals of the City.

The following is a list of the Commissioners who served on the EPC during FY2019.

James Kapsis (Chair)	Eldon Boes	Jessica Lassetter ¹
Praveen Kathpal (Vice Chair)	James Hook ²	
Elizabeth Bradley (Secretary) ¹	Michael Kulas ²	
Humza Arshad ²	Brendan Owens	
Stephen Milone ¹	Carolyn Schroeder	
Scott Barstow ¹	Reid Sherman	
Craig Berry ²	Sean Wilson ¹	
Geoffrey Goode	Leslie Jones	

Notes: ¹Term ended in 2019; ²Term began in 2019

The EPC met twice a month during this busy year; one working meeting and one business

meeting. The Chair may call other meetings as deemed necessary. All meetings are open to the public and notification of meetings is provided at least three business days prior to, as required by Virginia and City public disclosure law. Minutes of the meetings are posted to the EPC page on the City website:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/EnvironmentalPolicyCommission.html>

Throughout the year, the EPC has been well supported by the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES), Office of Environmental Quality. The EPC wishes to express its thanks for the time, expertise and devotion to duty shown by T&ES leadership and staff.

3. FY19 EPC Annual Retreat & Priorities

On September 8, 2018, the EPC held its annual retreat to discuss EPC priorities and strategies for the coming year. For FY2019, the main priority for the commission was to work with City Departments to update the Environmental Action Plan 2030, focusing on the following five focus areas for the Phase I of the update process:

- Climate Change
- Energy
- Green building
- Land use and open space
- Solid waste

EPC members identified and prioritized strategies for incorporating goals, targets and actions into the EAP update. EPC members reviewed presentations prepared by fellow commissioners, proposed strategies and schedules for engaging City staff, elected officials, and other stakeholders to advance progress in each topic area.

4. FY19 EPC Activities

EPC members worked diligently this past year on revising the EAP 2030, culminating in the Council adoption of EAP 2040 in July 2019. Five focus areas listed above were adopted in a Phase I of the updated EAP 2030 in October 2018. The new name for the updated EAP 2030 is EAP 2040 and includes Phase I topics and five additional areas: Transportation, Water Resources, Health, Air Quality, and Implementation and Outreach.

At the Council adoption of the EAP 2040, Scott Barstow, a former EPC member, was recognized by City Council for his leadership in the EPC over 10 years including his role as past EPC Chair.

Public engagement was part of the development of the EAP 2040, EPC and the City held several open houses, presentations to interested groups, an Eco-City Café in March 2018 and an Eco-City Summit in March 2019 with many EPC members active participation. Each of these events gathered community input and support for priorities in the EAP 2040.

EPC and staff from several City departments held regular small group meetings and conference calls to review progress, discuss technical details, and work on targets and priorities for actions in the EAP 2040.

During FY19, EPC hosted nine (9) meetings and seven (7) work sessions. The EPC also hosted and participated in joint meetings with other City Boards and Commissions including the Planning; and Parks and Recreation Commissions and the Housing Affordability Advisory Committee.

Letters to Council

The EPC provided letters to City Council addressing the following topics:

- Support for EAP 2040, June 11, 2019
- Budget FY 2020, March 18, 2019
- Budget FY2020, December 12, 2018
- Support for WasteSmart, November 6, 2018
- Virginia Energy Plan, August 18, 2018

Commissions and Advisory Groups

Members of the EPC represented the EPC on the following City commissions and working groups:

- Eco-City Steering Committee
- Potomac Yard Metro Station Implementation Group
- Waterfront Commission
- Transportation Commission
- Alexandria Earth Day Planning Committee
- Eisenhower West Small Area Plan Advisory Group
- River Renew Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Green Building Policy Update Task Force

Alexandria Earth Day

The Alexandria Earth Day event took place for the third consecutive year at the Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park on April 27, 2019. The theme this year was "Climate Change –Take Action" emphasizing the roles of citizen actions towards mitigating climate impacts. EPC commissioner Eldon Boes chaired the organizing committee. Attendance was estimated at over 600 visitors but down from previous years. Polling showed the majority were Alexandria residents.

The "Tent Talks" feature included speakers addressing green building, green investing, climate change and the City's Environmental Action Plan. This year's event expanded the exhibit area addressing alternative modes of transportation. A display of electric vehicles (EV) was parked on the adjacent George Washington Middle School parking lot. The EVs included a WMATA metro bus, electric scooters and automobiles. A DASH bus equipped with a bike carrier was available for bicyclers to practice loading. The Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee sponsored a bike rodeo on the parking lot for children

of all ages wishing to improve their biking skills.

Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award

Kurt Moser, President of the Four Mile Run Conservancy Foundation in Alexandria was recognized for his stewardship of Alexandria's environment and natural resources and presented with the 2019 Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award. EPC was part of the nominating committee.

5. FY19 EPC Highlights

- EPC was instrumental in the successful City Council adoption of the Environmental Action Plan 2040 on July 9, 2019. This is a road map for City leaders and Alexandria communities to take actions toward environmental sustainability and to fight the urgent global issue of climate change.
- EPC played a significant role in the process and adoption of the new Green Building Policy on June 22, 2019.

6. EPC Membership Recruitment

Five members resigned and were replaced by four new members. The current roster consists of 11 members, with two open positions.

7. Leadership

The commission elects four leadership positions (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Earth Day Chair) on an annual basis. Elections for FY20 were held at the June 2019 meeting. Praveen Kathpal was elected as Chair, James Kapsis was re-elected as Vice Chair, and Michael Kulas was elected as Secretary. There are no candidates for Earth Day Chair as of September 2019.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT
JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019

COMMISSION: Environmental Policy Commission CHAIR PERSON: Praveen Kathpal

MEMBER'S NAME	Aug 20 WS	Sept 8 Ret	Sept 24	Oct 15	Nov 5 WS	Nov 19	Dec 3 WS	Dec 17	Jan 14	Feb 25	Mar 4 WS	Mar 18	Apr 1 WS	Apr 22	May 6 WS	Jun 3 WS	Jun 17
Humza Arshad																	X
Scott Barstow			x	x	X	X	X	X									
Craig Berry							X	X		x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Elizabeth Bradley			x	x	X			X		x				x			
Eldon Boes	x		x	x	X	X	X	X				x		x		x	x
Geoffrey Goode			x	x	X	X	X	X	x		x	x			x	x	X
James Hook									x	x		E	x	x	x		
Leslie Jones			x		X			X	x		x	x				x	
James Kapsis	x		x		X		X	X		X		X	X	x	x	X	x
Praveen Kathpal	x		x	x	X	X	X	X	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Michael Kulas							X	X	x	x		x	x	x	x		x
Jessica Lassetter																	
Stephen Milone	x		x														
Brendan Owens			x			X		X	x	X		x		x		X	x
Carolyn Schroeder	x			X	X	X	X	X	x	X	x	X		x	x	X	
Reid Sherman	x			X		X	X	X				x	x		x	X	x
Sean Wilson			x			X											

KEY: --NON-MEMBER |  MEMBER | X = PRESENT | E = EXCUSED | U = UNEXCUSED

APPROVED:

(Chairperson)

(Form must be signed by chairperson)

Report on Waterfront Commission Meeting, September 17, 2019 by Eldon Boes

That morning, pro-gun folks were exhibiting firearms at City Hall to demonstrate their right to do so. The WC Chair Stephen Thayer made it clear that the WC has no authority to consider that issue. For information purposes, we were informed that the Council has approved a ban on weapons in City Hall and in City Parks that will take effect if and when the State allows municipal jurisdictions the authority to enact such bans.

T&ES will report on the Scooters Pilot Project next month.

The artwork in Waterfront Park is an annual activity. Artwork for the next year will be presented on October 7.

We were told that a generous Alexandria couple is bequeathing \$2.5 million to the city for specific improvements to Alexandria's waterfront parks although the details have not been finalized.

