



## Minutes

# VIRTUAL EPC /PLANNING COMMISSION JOINT MEETING

February 28, 2022

7:30 – 9:30 PM

### Attendance

<b>EPC Members (11)</b>		<b>Staff (Partial List)</b>
Michael Bahleda	P	Ellen Eggerton (acting staff liaison)
Eldon Boes	E	Jessica Lassetter
Edith Cecchini	P	Felicia Montoney
Alexander Clark	E	Camille Liebnitzky
Jennifer Debias	P	Amanda Dolasinski
Cynthia Elliott	P	
Oleksandr Faryga	E	
Nicole Heckman	P	
Kathie Hoekstra	P	
Michael Olex	P	
Brendan Owens	E	
William Pugh	P	
Marta Schantz	E	
		<b>Guests (14)</b>

**P: Present; A: Absent - Unexcused; E: Absent – Excused – N: Not a member**

FY2022 Environmental Policy Commission Attendance Summary														
Member's Name	2021							2022						% Attendance
	30-Aug	20-Sep	25-Sep	18-Oct	20-Oct	15-Nov	13-Dec	24-Jan	28-Feb	21-Mar	18-Apr	16-May	20-Jun	
Michael Bahleda	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%
Edith Cecchini	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%
Alexander Clark	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%
Cynthia Elliott	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	P						100%
Oleksandr Faryga								P						100%
Nicole Heckman	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	E						63%
Kathie Hoekstra	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%
Jennifer Debias	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A						88%
Michael Olex	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%
Brendan Owens	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%
William Pugh	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P						88%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P						100%

## 1. Public Speaker:

- a. Scott Barstow: Concerns that the budget doesn't address the greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced over the next 5 years and according to the IPCC report on 2/28/2022, there is no time to wait.
- b. Ellen Eggerton: there is no direct measure for the greenhouse effect for each action but only a collective impact. Inventory is done every 3 years and the current measurement is on the 2020 measure. There is no 1 to 1 measure for the actions and projects. We are updating the ECAP (Energy and Climate Action Plan) to provide estimates for some but not all action policies. There is no direct relation between the actions and the budget.
- c. Marta: Is there a way to correlate them in the future?
- d. Ellen: The actions and budgeted projects don't do that. City projects incorporate the actions into each project but there are no projects that ONLY do those types of actions and nothing else.
- e. Scott: Big ticket items to drive down emissions, seems doable to me.
- f. Ellen: Can be done by technologies but we cannot predict the adoption of people to execute that. We don't have a model to estimate how many people will adopt these items. We have a consultant that we are asking to do the analysis for the City.

## 2. Meeting Minutes to Approve

- a. Platform changed and the minutes were added again today. Not ready for approval since all members have not reviewed them.

## 3. Committee Reports

- a. Transportation Commission: **Bill**: Duke Street Transitway was in regard to the public involvement and survey work. The advisory group should have conceptual plans and options in the Spring. Another community engagement will happen later this year. Regarding climate, the Regional Transportation Board is providing input on strategies that their jurisdictions would support.
- b. Energy and Climate Change Action Plan task force: **Marta** Discussion on Climate vulnerabilities and change adaptation. Daniel Medina spoke about this. The focus was also on the urban heat islands with it being one of the biggest climate risks and the other is flooding. 3/1 Community workshop from 7-930pm with great speakers. Marta and Kathie met with 6 out of 7 City Council members to discuss the joint letter in an effort to push Climate items and encourage energy and sustainability plans in addition to the green building policies. This is an attempt to get developers to think a little more around climate changes. 805 of all existing buildings in 2050 are already built and we need to address the efficiency and renewables for those buildings. Looking to staffing for new programs and to promote the existing programs. City Council was very receptive of the ideas and concerns the EPC had.
- c. Helco Meeting: **Mike B.** reported that there was a community discussion regarding sustainability planning. It was a high-level presentation. Mot talked about soil sampling on site- but with no work on the powerhouse there is still a lot to be done. The sustainability plan should be issued later this Spring to include the carbon neutrality analysis. Disappointing to hear they are looking at LEED Silver for the whole site. 3/31 – Public Presentation on transportation and 4/18 a meeting with the EPC.
- d. Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation ad hoc advisory group: **Jennifer** shared a few points from this meeting. They have had great progress on the plot improvement projects. Expanding inlets to prevent flooding. The most recent project is at Hume Avenue.

Modeling of the Sanitary Sewer in Old Town to help determine solutions available to prevent flooding in the Old Town area. They also have the Flood Mitigation Grant Program. Owners can get 50% up to \$5,000 reimbursed for flood mitigation that they do to their own property. Some information is online but they are working on ways to better inform the communities on the program and that should be on the website soon.

4. **Public comments and discussion.** Conversation regarding next steps for recommendations for City Council to include more climate control actions. Items such as CPACE, RPACE, net zero buildings by 2026, having RMI work with the City on a program to help with outreach and information for residents to utilize RPACE, extra staffing and budget for outreach on existing programs.
5. **City Council letter:** Letter to City Council with the top 3 items for recommendations to be drafted by Kathie. The three topics are staffing, Energy and Resilience Plans, and net zero for residential buildings by 2026 and commercial building by 2030.
6. **Next meeting March 21.**