



Minutes

VIRTUAL EPC MONTHLY MEETING

March 21, 2022

7:30 – 9:30 PM

Attendance

EPC Members (13)		Staff (Partial List)
Michael Bahleda	P	
Eldon Boes	P	Ellen Eggerton (Acting Staff Liaison)
Edith Cecchini	P	Khoa Tran
Alexander Clark	P	Camille Liebnitzky
Jennifer Debias	E	Amanda Dolasinski
Cynthia Elliott	P	Jesse Maines
Oleksandr Faryga	P	John Marlin
Nicole Heckman	P	Oscar Mendoza
Kathie Hoekstra	P	Murphy Ng
Michael Olex	P	Syed Imran
Brendan Owens	P	
William Pugh	P	
Marta Schantz	P	
		Guests (15)

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	P	P				100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P				100%
Edith Cecchini	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				100%
Alexander Clark	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P				100%
Cynthia Elliott	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				100%
Oleksandr Faryga								P	E	P				100%
Nicole Heckman	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	E	P	P				100%
Kathie Hoekstra	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				100%
Jennifer Debias	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	E				90%
Michael Olex	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				100%
Brendan Owens	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P				100%
William Pugh	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P				90%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P				100%

1. Public Comments:

Scott Barstow - City Council strategic plans on March 8th seemed to drop climate change. PRGS carbon neutrality analysis is “insulting” in his opinion.

2. Meeting Minutes

Both January 24 and February 28 meeting minutes will be considered for approval at the April 18 meeting.

3. Committee Reports

Kathie reported on getting positive feedback from Council member John Chapman and the Mayor on the joint commissions letter to Council regarding climate change crisis. Bill Pugh reported on the regional transportation planning board (TPB) climate change strategy focusing on EV and reduced VMT.

Mike Bahleda reported on the DOE and Hilco discussion on a potential clean energy demonstration project.

Kathie mentioned that there will be a public budget discussion on the Livable, Green and Prospering City focus area this Wednesday, March 23. She also noted that the EPC Annual Retreat for this year will be at the AlexRenew Board Room on May 21.

4. Urban Forestry Program Presentation by John Marlin, RPCA

John Marlin gave a comprehensive review of the program and outlined proposed planting and tree maintenance strategies that would move away from the present reactive approach and focus on being proactive and preventive. The proposed strategies would also address the present social equity issue. This presentation is on the EPC website.

5. IEN Presentation on Strawberry Run and Taylor Run Community and Stakeholder Engagement – Mike Foreman, UVA

Mike Foreman of UVA reported on the results of IEN interview of 14 (6 staffs; 8 community stakeholders) out of a planned 16 people. This presentation as well as the video recording of the whole meeting are on the EPC website.

Responding to a question by EPC Secretary Edith Cecchini, staff reported that the SLAG fund is technically still available to the City until December 31 of this year provided that the contract for the project is issued before this date.

Commissioner Boes asked for clarification on the path forward and the process for selecting TAG membership recommended by IEN. In response, IEN said that they are preparing a revised proposal for their forthcoming service to the City. Community members asked to see this proposal when available.

One resident mentioned that the objectives for Taylor Run are different from those for Strawberry Run and so far, the former seems to get more attention.

Another resident expressed concerns that the City seemed to decide to move away from the natural channel design but she saw nothing in writing to confirm this.

Several community stakeholders expressed concerns or request more information on the benefit of the proposed TAG and its selection process.

Next Steps for IEN: 1) Complete interviews and prepare report for submission to City; 2) Submit revised proposal to City.

- 6. Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 PM and the next meeting will be on April 18.**

DRAFT