



Minutes

EPC MONTHLY MEETING

December 11, 2023

City Hall, Conference Room 2000

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members (13)	Status	Staff
Dan Beattie	P	Melissa Atwood, T&ES
Eldon Boes	P	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Alexander Clark	P	
Benjamin Cuddy	E	
Jennifer Debias	P	
Kathie Hoekstra, Chair	P	
Anna Marino	A	Guests
Philip Mobilia	P	Scott Barstow, resident
Michael Olex, Vice-Chair	PR	Eleanor Quigley, Beautification Commission
Theresa Romanosky	P	Sara Rhoades, Beautification Commission
Marta Schantz	E	
James Vandeputte	P	

P: Present; **PR:** Present Remotely; **A:** Absent - Unexcused; **E:** Absent – Excused; **N:** Not a Member

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Kathie Hoekstra called meeting to order and introductions for all attendees followed.

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Administrative Items

a) Meeting Minutes

Vote on November 13, 2023, regular meeting minutes, with amendment to acronym and definition for HOMES and HEERHA, for approval. **Motion:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Second:** Mr. Al Clark; **Vote:** Unanimous approval, with Ms. Theresa Romanosky abstaining.

b) Reports from Commissioners

- Update from Mr. Dan Beattie: As the new EPC appointee, Mr. Beattie introduced himself to the Chair of the Transportation Commission. Appointment will be finalized at City Council meeting Tuesday evening, December 12, 2023. Next Transportation Commission meeting will be in January.
- Updates from Chair Hoekstra:
 - Vote for Zoning for Housing/Housing for All passed at Council.
 - Mayor Wilson announced he is not running for re-election. Vice-Mayor Amy Jackson and Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins both announced they will run as candidates for Mayor.
 - Met with Rip Sullivan, one of the primary authors of the Virginia Clean Economy Act. He talked about several bills he is going to address and work to get passed this legislative session. One specifically impacts the city and school system, related to interconnection charge from Dominion for those using medium sized solar. Other bills are related to data centers.
 - Fifth National Climate Assessment came out last month. They're doing webinars of the different chapters, which are recorded, if EPC members are interested in watching them.

4. Discussion and taping of videos with Beautification Commission for outreach and messaging of electrification, energy efficiency and IRA tax incentives

Beautification Commission discussed how they can work with the EPC to enhance messaging and outreach through media outlets.

EPC and Beautification Commission both promote sustainability. Beautification Commission will support the EPCs messaging through amplification where it makes sense in their charter to help get new EPC social platform up and going. Beautification Commission also writes articles for the zebra (z-environment section). EPC can send Ms. Sara Rhoades a short article, 300-word max with photo, for the zebra and messages to share on social media.

Ms. Jennifer Debias will manage posts and information for the Instagram account. Discussed environmental topics for reels and the need to include information on what to do, versus what not to do.

5. Status Update on New Office of Climate Action Programs/Plans along with Discussion on strategic planning for EPC over next 6 months and fiscal year

Discussed results of short questionnaire Chair Hoekstra sent to commissioners. Mixed responses for whether to update the Eco-City Charter. Reminder that part of joint letter with Planning Commission regarding update of Green Building Policy also addressed need to align the Master Plan, Small Area Plans, and Coordinated Development Plans so developers could not say they were complying with one plan to possibly not met other plan requirements.

Eco-City Charter includes the vision, guiding principles, and rules/responsibilities of various groups. Green Building Policy is a policy with rules that developers must followed.

Initiatives and goals are identified in the Environmental Action Plan 2040 (EAP2040), Energy & Climate Change Action Plan (ECCAP), and 2016 Eco-City Project Report & Environmental Indicators summary.

Discussed possible metrics EPC would request and are feasible to track more in-depth. Discussed whether Code Department requires permits when systems in residential homes are replaced or upgraded and possible information Code can provide for whether upgrades were completed to help with tracking.

Each commissioner will identify their top 5 metrics/initiatives that are quantifiable from the three referenced documents and send to Chair Hoekstra by Friday, January 12, 2024, who will summarize priorities for discussion at the January 22, 2024 meeting.

6. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Theresa Romanosky; **Second:** Mr. James Vandeputte; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22p.m.

Next regular meeting is Monday, January 22, 2024.

FY2024 Attendance

Member	Sept 18, 2023	Oct 16, 2023	Nov 11, 2023	Dec 11, 2023	Jan 22, 2023	Feb 26, 2023	Mar 18, 2023	Apr 15, 2023	Retreat	May 20, 2023	Jun 17, 2023	TOTALS
Dan Beattie	P	P	P	P								100.0%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	P								100.0%
Alexander Clark	P	P	P	P								100.0%
Benjamin Cuddy	P	P	P	E								85.71%
Jennifer Debias	P	E	P	P								85.71%
Cynthia Elliott	P	N	N	N								85.71%
Oleksandr Faryga	A	E	N	N								85.71%
Kathie Hoekstra	E	P	P	P								71.43%
Anna Marino	P	P	P	A								85.71%
Philip Mobilia	N	P	P	P								100.0%
Michael Olex	P	E	P	P								71.43%
Theresa Romanosky	P	P	E	P								85.71%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	E								100.0%
James Vandeputte	P	P	P	P								85.71%