



Minutes

EPC MONTHLY MEETING

September 18, 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	Samantha Heitsch, OCA
Alexander Clark	P	
Benjamin Cuddy	P	
Jennifer Debias	P	
Cynthia Elliott	P	
Oleksandr Faryga	A	Guests
Kathie Hoekstra, Chair	E	Philip Mobilia
Anna Marino	P	Carol Glen
Michael Olex, Vice-Chair	P	
Theresa Romanosky	P	
Marta Schantz	P	
James Vandeputte	PR	

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

1. Welcome & Introductions

Vice-Chair Michael Olex assumed the role of Chair in Kathie Hoekstra’s absence. Chair Olex called meeting to order and introductions for all attendees followed.

Samantha Heitsch, Sustainability Coordinator for Office of Climate Action, introduced herself and provided a brief overview of professional experience.

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Administrative Items

a) Meeting Minutes

Vote on June 12, 2023, meeting minutes for approval. **Motion:** Ms. Marta Schantz; **Second:** Mr. Al Clark; **Vote:** Unanimous approval, with Ms. Cynthia Elliot abstaining.

b) Approval for Letter of Endorsement: Grant for U.S. DOT FTA's Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning

Vote on Support for Letter of Endorsement. **Motion:** Ms. Jennifer Debias; **Second:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

c) Reports from Commissioners

- Waterfront Commission (Mr. Eldon Boes): Next meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, September 19th. Main item is design and build contract for flood mitigation.
- Ad Hoc Stormwater Committee (Ms. Jennifer Debias): Next meeting Wednesday, September 20th.
- Eisenhower West Small Area Plan Advisory Group (Ms. Cynthia Elliot): Next meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, September 19th.

4. 2024 Legislative Proposal Package

Legislative proposal list is a compilation of comments provided to Kathie. EPC needs to consider legislative stance if Democrats take both houses, Republicans take both houses, or split.

If we continue to have a mixed legislature, EPC will hold a defensive position and focus on four topics, including top priority of protecting/defending Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the Virginia Clean Economy Act, and other legislation that has made advances in the areas of combatting climate change, promoting energy efficiency and encouraging clean energy investment.

Legislative list under discussion focuses on legislative priorities for the EPC if Democrats hold both houses and EPC can hold an offensive position. To prioritize, each commissioner will select their top four legislative asks. Members may also consider if various items can be combined under a topic. Final list of priorities will not be established until after the election.

Melissa will work on consolidating commissioner priorities and send to Chair Olex for review.

EPC requested Sarah Taylor come discuss legislative asks either before or after election, whichever she feels more effective. Melissa will reach out to Sarah to coordinate.

5. Update from Office of Climate Action

Samantha provided a brief update on work the Office of Climate Action has done over the summer, including upcoming social media channels.

6. 2023 Budget Discussion

Final outcome will be a letter to the City Manager regarding what EPC is looking for in the City's budget. Initial conversations with Office of Climate Action related to this topic occurred last spring. EPC requests an update on status of operations and implementation of 2024 budget and what Office of Climate Action wants to do next year, which will help inform EPC on 2025 budget letter.

EPC members should come prepared to discuss and vote in concept of what a letter might look like so next month can be spent writing it.

7. Possible Topics to Consider in Future Meetings

- City's Housing for All Incentive Program has been kicked off. Consider whether the EPC should take a position on this.
- Extension of HOV lanes from Springfield across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge to Maryland.
- (Long-Term) Discussion about walkable communities and what makes communities attractive to walk in. Possibly as an educational topic.
- Session with Public Health Department to talk about climate and health code benefits, including possible collaboration.
- Metrics: The City is initiating/running a lot of programs/activities. How are we measuring them?
- Update on Earth Day Planning and how EPC may be able to participate. Maybe in October or November.

8. Discussion on Volunteer List for all EPC members.

Mr. Eldon Boes, ACPS. Works with them by helping teach bicycling in schools. Possibly get on the agenda of PTAC (Council of PTA presidents). It has been hard to get traction with schools from top down, so look at other ways to connect, such as through the science coordinator or energy manager.

- Schools are overwhelmed with safety issues. Environmental initiatives may be further down their list of priorities.
- Three years ago, City Council and School Board agreed to have a subcommittee of Council and board members. The Mayor and Councilman Chapman still post about it.

- Teacher-the-teacher seminars where you get faculty involved versus having direction come from central office.
- Children Youth and Family Collaborative Commission could be a way to get schools engaged. This Commission focuses on education in and out of schools.

Ms. Marta Schantz and Ms. Jennifer Debias, Letter to the Editor: Requested inspirational material/topic ideas to write about.

Ms. Jennifer Debias, Earth Day: Earth Day.

Ms. Marta Schantz, Follow up from Past Joint Letters: In the past, when joint letters were sent out, one or two EPC members would follow up with individual council members to help push things forward.

9. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Marta Schantz; **Second:** Mr. Eldon Boes; **Vote:** unanimous approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m. Next regular meeting is Monday, October 16, 2023.

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											100.0%
Eldon Boes	P											100.0%
Alexander Clark	P											100.0%
Benjamin Cuddy	P											100.0%
Jennifer Debias	P											100.0%
Cynthia Elliott	P											100.0%
Oleksandr Faryga	A											0%
Kathie Hoekstra	E											0%
Anna Marino	P											100.0%
Michael Olex	P											100.0%
Theresa Romanosky	P											100.0%
Marta Schantz	P											100.0%
James Vandeputte	P											100.0%