



Minutes

EPC MONTHLY MEETING

April 15, 2024

Virtual via Zoom

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members (13)	Status	Staff
Kishla Askins	P	Melissa Atwood, T&ES
Dan Beattie	P	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Eldon Boes	PR	
Alexander Clark	P	
Benjamin Cuddy	P	
Jennifer Debias	PR	
Kathie Hoekstra, Chair	P	
Anna Marino	P	Guests
Philip Mobilia	P	
Marta Schantz, Vice-Chair	P	
Julia Slayden	P	
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 the meeting to order. No introductions were needed, no public present.

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Administrative Items

a) Meeting Minutes

Vote on March 18, 2024, regular meeting minutes, for approval. **Motion:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Second:** Ms. Marta Schantz; **Vote:** Unanimous approval, with Mr. Ben Cuddy and Mr. Al Clark abstaining.

b) Vote for Secretary

Ms. Theresa Romanosky resigned from the EPC. Mr. Philip Mobilia volunteered and was voted into the position of secretary for the remainder of FY24.

c) Reports from Commissioners/Staff

Updates from Chair Hoekstra:

- Meeting with T&ES Director and Climate Action Officer: Instead of EPC writing a letter to the City Manager referencing the EPC charter, Ms. Adriana Castañeda will intercede on the EPC's behalf since TES is responsible for being the EPC liaison. T&ES teams will come periodically to provide updates and will suggest P&Z do the same.
- Increased coordination with City Council: The EPC Charter is updated to include the climate crisis, but the Ordinance does not mention it. Consider revising some EPC commissioner qualifications to include various disciplines related to the climate crisis and updating the Ordinance to mention the climate crisis. Those changes would require approval by City Council.
- Green Building Policy Advisory Group: Held third meeting today, April 15, 2024. Making good progress. The team is collecting information from all participants so they can list priorities, remove impediments, and consider all aspects during Green Building Policy update.

Updates from Ryan Freed:

- Eco-City Festival: Event is at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) on May 11, 2024 from 10am – 1pm.

Updates from Melissa Atwood:

- Earth Month: Webinars for Stormwater Management and Air Quality coming up in the next couple weeks.

Update from Mr. Eldon Boes:

- Waterfront Commission: Next meeting, Tuesday, April 16, 2024. No update at this time.
- ACPS presentation: ACPS will be attending the May meeting. EPC members to provide Mr. Boes discussion points to share with ACPS before Friday, April 19th. Presentation will focus on the hardware (e.g., energy use indexes) versus curriculum educational connections.

Update from Mr. Dan Beattie:

- Transportation Commission: Next meeting is Wednesday, April 17, 2024. In March's meeting, the commission talked about the AlexWest Small Area Plan and transit options, at or near Southern Towers. Mr. Beattie also raised concerns including tree canopy, parking space, and incorporation of bike and pedestrian pathways. Commission discussed Transit Strategic Plan. Including a big concern related to wait times of up to 60 minutes on some DASH lines, which will be included in the budget letter up for consideration at

Wednesday's meeting. Upcoming discussions include the Eisenhower pipeline project. Including improvements for accessibility, congestion, and safety; and a possible bike path in a separate lane. Letter on FY25 budget request will include recommendation to fully fund the electric bus conversion initiative for FY37 conversion goal, whether we have federal funding or not.

- Attended the AlexRenew open house. Kudos to AlexRenew for planning a great event.

Update from Ms. Jennifer Debias:

- Stormwater Commission: Letter of discrimination filed against the City: treating condo owners unfairly compared to single family owners as it relates to the amount of money they are eligible for with the flood grant.
- Ellen Pickering Award: Recipient has been selected and will be awarded at 12pm on Sunday, April 21st at the Del Ray GardenFest.
- Social Media: EPC social is going well, posts happening weekly, if not more frequently. Always looking for content from others. The Alexandria Beautification Commission has shared content and helped promote social.

Eco-City Homes Recognition program (Ms. Marta Schantz): Goal is to be as parallel and equal to the Green Business program as possible. Team is putting together attributes and putting them into tiers (bronze, silver, gold). Working on making the program approachable for all residents, by weighting attributes, and providing links to available resources. Once ready, it will be sent to the EPC for review and a request to test the program by ranking their own homes. Program will be discussed as part of the May EPC regular meeting.

4. EPC tabling at ALX Dog Walk and Eco-City Festival

ALX Dog Walk: Chair Hoekstra is getting a solar panel to display at the event and will run the booth.

- Discussed possible giveaways for future events: stainless steel multipurpose tool, rechargeable battery charger.

Eco-City Festival: Possibly bring trivia game related to climate. If EPC is going to have information only, Climate Action requests help as volunteers in lieu of hosting a booth/table. Volunteer opportunities are on Volunteer Alexandria's webpage.

5. Final Retreat Planning Discussions

Bettina Bergoo, Virginia Energy, will be presenting. Chair Hoekstra asked for discussion to focus on the Inflation Reduction Act that the State is going to be managing and giving EPC information on point-of-sale rebates anticipated for January 2025. Discussion on whether EPC would like presentation to cover other aspects of program.

EPC didn't have any other comments or suggested changes to retreat agenda.

For education topics, EPC is interested in learning more about the City's recycling program, specifically the way the city recycles plastics, how we benchmark against other cities (regionally and nationally), what kind of success we are having, and how it really works. Report from Center for Climate Integrity, talks about recycling efficiency for plastics at 5 or 6%. Letter to the City from VDEQ, saying Alexandria's effective recycling rate in 2020 was 52.1%.

6. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Dan Beattie; **Second:** Ms. Marta Schantz

The meeting adjourned at 9:15p.m. Next regular meeting is Monday, May 20, 2024.

FY2024 Attendance

Member	Sept 18, 2023	Oct 16, 2023	Nov 11, 2023	Dec 11, 2023	Jan 22, 2024 <small>(virtual only)</small>	Feb 26, 2024 <small>(virtual only)</small>	Mar 18, 2024	Apr 15, 2024	Apr 27, 2024 <small>(Retreat)</small>	May 20, 2024	Jun 17, 2024	TOTALS
Kishla Askins						P	P	P				100%
Dan Beattie	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				100%
Alexander Clark	P	P	P	P	E	P	A	P				88%
Benjamin Cuddy	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P				100%
Jennifer Debias	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P				100%
Cynthia Elliott	P											100%
Oleksandr Faryga	A	E										50%
Kathie Hoekstra	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				100%
Anna Marino	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P				88%
Philip Mobilia		P	P	P	P	P	P	P				100%
Michael Olex	P	E	P	P	P							100%
Theresa Romanosky	P	P	E	P	P	P	E					100%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P				100%
Julia Slayden					P	P	P	P				100%
James Vandeputte	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				100%